500 schools to increase tuition by 15%

STORY ON PAGE A2

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

SATURDAY, MAY 26, 2001 ★★ 70 PAGES 7 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 167 ₱15

IN *Saturday*SPECIAL

BECKINSALE

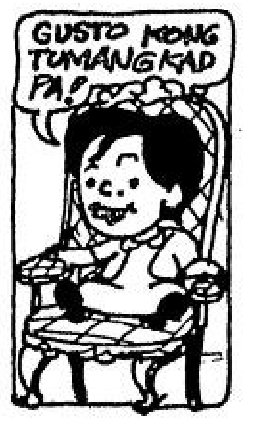
- **Kate Beckinsale grabs spotlight in 'Pearl Harbor'**
- **Nicole Kidman speaks frankly about divorce**
- **Lovable ogre dominates box office**

Gloria says she dreamed of being taller

BY J.L. JAVELLANA

"TALLER, taller yes," President Macapagal-Arroyo, who stands 4'11", told CNN Talk Asia of the ambition of

GLORIA/ A16


GUSTO KONG TUMANGKAD PA!

Gloria allies vow to block power bill

Civil society groups threaten 'people power'

BY ANDREA T. ECHAVEZ
AND CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

CIVIL society groups are threatening to launch another "people power" to block the passage of the Omnibus Power Bill during a four-day special session of Congress starting next week called by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The passage of the bill appears uncertain after opposition senators agreed yesterday that the measure had to be studied thoroughly and that there was not enough time for the outgoing Congress to work on it.

Ms Macapagal is pushing for the passage of the Omnibus Power Bill with the use of television advertisements to connect with the masses.

In the commercial, the President is shown clad in a yellow suit and seated behind a desk. She's saying that the passage of the bill would lower electricity rates in the country.

Ms Macapagal said that "one of the causes of poverty in the country is the high cost of electricity."

The power reform bill authorizes the government to sell the National Power Corp. (Napocor) at a "bargain price" of $4.5 billion to offset its current liability of $6.7 billion.

Militant groups said the passage of the bill would be an additional burden on taxpayers as they would assume Napocor's debts.

Groups led by Sanlakas and the Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC) said they would continue to hound the Macapagal administration until it changes its position on what they described as an "onerous bill."

The party-list group Bayan Muna urged Congress to junk the bill.

"The government surrenders Napocor, which was established out of taxpayers money, to greedy corporate powers in the industry. Worse, the people will be forced to pay Napocor's debt to foreign creditors," Bayan Muna said in a statement.

FDC's Liddy Nacpil said civil society groups

GLORIA/ A15

UMBRELLAS OF PROTEST
The sounds and sights of fury of militant groups led by Gabriela at the Caltex office in Makati City to protest the round of oil price increases.

NAMFREL			COMELEC	
as of 4:27 p.m., May 25			3:15 p.m.	
151,895 precincts (75.57%)			82 COCs	
1	DE CASTRO	12,183,754	1	12,460,615
2	FLAVIER	8,877,404	2	8,754,095
3	OSMEÑA	8,699,161	3	8,605,087
4	DRILON	8,518,543	4	8,586,972
5	MAGSAYSAY	8,505,158	7	8,463,594
6	ARROYO	8,495,848	5	8,520,599
7	VILLAR	8,339,445	6	8,518,912
8	PANGILINAN	8,233,974	8	8,254,338
9	ANGARA	8,121,808	9	8,053,835
10	LACSON	7,867,813	11	7,860,493
11	EJERCITO	7,834,231	13	7,843,857
12	HONASAN	7,750,473	12	7,852,264
13	RECTO	7,703,978	10	7,939,566
14	SANTIAGO	7,247,108	15	7,176,206
15	ENRILE	7,212,000	14	7,224,131
16	PUNO	6,547,447	16	6,344,506
17	TAÑADA	6,148,006	17	6,053,407
18	MERCADO	5,618,222	18	5,846,553
19	PAGDANGANAN	5,367,475	19	5,384,678
20	HERRERA	5,186,007	20	4,945,876
21	MONSOD	5,052,302	21	4,858,088
22	RASUL	3,829,440	24	3,504,923
23	MADRIGAL	3,760,258	22	3,679,069
24	CHATO	3,626,652	23	3,537,065
25	YASAY	3,525,860	25	3,416,760
26	CANOY	2,660,754	26	2,514,805
27	TAMANO	2,559,883	27	2,318,724
28	ADAZA	583,875	28	640,793
29	MORATO	512,361	30	445,411
30	NAVARRO	484,389	29	478,584

Recto fighting to keep 13th slot

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA
AND CYNTHIA D. BALANA

THE PEOPLE Power Coalition, which maintains an 8-4-1 lead, yesterday opposed a petition filed by a Puwersa ng Masa lawyer seeking to have Lipa City's certificate of canvass (COC) examined on the ground that this had been allegedly tampered to favor PPC senatorial candidate Ralph Recto.

The COC for Lipa showed Recto getting 46,105 votes but he received 55,915 votes in the COC for the province of Batangas, according to former Immigration Commissioner Rufus Rodriguez.

Recto's wife, actress Vilma Santos, is mayor of Lipa.

"All of us should join hands to finish this matter once and for all," said Rodriguez, a lawyer for PnM senatorial candidate Loi Ejercito.

Recto was in 10th place in the Commission on Elections' count based on 82 out of the 102 COCs but was holding on to No. 13 in the tally of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) based on 75.57 percent of the total number of precincts.

Namfrel's quick count for the senatorial race at La Salle Greenhills ended last night.

Comelec Commissioner Rex Borra said there was a "possibility" that the top rank-

RECTO/ A16

Sons also rise as old politicians fall

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

MOVE over, Dad; here comes Junior.

Last week's elections saw a number of seasoned politicians lose badly while their children posted strong victories.

They include at least two senators, a former congressman, a vice governor, a mayor and a former ranking government official.

Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. and former Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman both lost to Councilor Nanette Daza in the three-cornered fight for the fourth district's congressional seat.

Daza's win against Lagman and Mathay, both veteran politicians, came as a surprise to many, including her opponents, who claimed there was massive poll fraud.

Mathay was congressman of the district before he served three terms as mayor.

Lagman and Mathay's children, however, had little problem winning.

Lagman's eldest daughter, Krisel Lagman-Luistro, was reelected to the post her father used to occupy. Mathay's son, Ismael "Chuck" Mathay III, was elected congressman for Quezon City's 2nd district. It was the younger Mathay's second attempt

SONS/ A4

PEARL FARM PURSUIT

2 soldiers, 5 bandits slain

BY ALLAN A. NAWAL
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MALITA, Davao del Sur—Two soldiers were killed and another was wounded in a clash yesterday morning with the armed band that attacked the Barcelo Pearl Farm Beach Resort on the Island Garden City of Samal Tuesday night.

Five of the gunmen were killed, and their bodies were recovered yesterday afternoon, according to Davao del Sur police Chief Supt. Guillermo Lara.

Soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division started to pound with mortar shells the hinterland sitios of Barangay Mana here at 7:30 a.m. The clash with the gunmen occurred some three hours later, leaving Sgt. Tomas Alona and Pfc. Oliver Er-er dead, and Pfc. Vicente Estares in critical condition.

The clash site is a kilometer away from the command post of the joint police and military forces.

2 SOLDIERS/ A4

FULL military operation is expected to last for the next four days against the still unknown Pearl Farm bandits in Malita, Davao del Sur, where residents have been evacuated to safer areas. ALLAN NAWAL/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

No VIP treatment for Erap –Gloria

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

THE PROSECUTION of disgraced ex-President Joseph Estrada will be pursued. He will get no special treatment. There'll be no deals with him.

President Macapagal-Arroyo made these assurances to representatives of various groups active in People Power II during a two-hour "frank exchange of views" yesterday in Malacañang.

At the meeting, some 20 representatives of civil society and militant and Church-based groups expressed their objection to the President's earlier statement that she was not against Estrada's house arrest. She has postponed her plan to build special quarters for Estrada at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center compound in Quezon City.

They also expressed disapproval of her determined move to have Congress pass the power reform bill. *(See banner story.)*

The People Power II forces came out of the meeting "satisfied" that Ms Macapagal took time out for a dialogue, but not totally convinced (*"parang bitin"*) by her explanations.

NO/ A16

Lingayen Gulf hosts whale sharks

BY YOLANDA FUERTES
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—For six days this week, beachcombers and residents were treated to a rare sight—a pod of whale sharks *(Rhincodon typus)* frolicking in Lingayen Gulf.

The whale sharks, known as *butanding* in Sorsogon, arrived early Sunday at a beach, 30 meters behind the provincial capitol here.

Florentino Taron, a beach shed owner, said the whale sharks, which he described as "two big and two little ones," stayed until 3 p.m. Sunday. The small whale sharks were about three feet long.

The whale sharks returned the following day, but fishermen, using dynamite sticks, tried to blast them away. Scared, the whale sharks scampered back to the open sea. Nobody saw them on Tuesday.

But on Wednesday, the four whale sharks were seen coming near the shore again. Thinking they were killer sharks, people hurried out of the waters, shouting *"pating."*

They watched the whale sharks

LINGAYEN/ A16

Second FRONT PAGE

NAKU! 'DI PAPAYAG ANG MGA ESTUDYANTE NIYAN!

500 schools hiking tuition by 15%

Massive student protests seen

By Blanche S. Rivera

THIS early, schools are bracing for massive protests by their students after almost 500 colleges and universities nationwide announced plans to hike their tuition in the new school year.

A report by the Commission on Higher Education under the Department of Education, Culture and Sports showed that 452 private schools nationwide and at least 26 state colleges and universities in Mindanao have sought permission to increase tuition by an average of 15.3 percent.

Of the 452 private schools, 106 are based in Metro Manila, with the rest found in 14 regions of the country.

The fee increases sought range from a low of 11.44 percent to a high of 23.2 percent, according to the report issued on May 15 by the CHEd's Office of Student Services.

Palace blamed

The College Editors Guild of the Philippines and the National Union of Students of the Philippines, which represent thousands of mostly college students, blamed Malacañang for the fee hikes.

CEGP president Rey Asis said President Macapagal-Arroyo should have issued an executive order freezing tuition in the private schools as these had become "merciless and dense to the plight of their students."

"With the growing economic crisis and the triumph of People Power II, it was the least she could do," Asis said, citing the youth's role in ousting discredited president Joseph Estrada and helping to install Ms Macapagal in Malacañang.

Asis complained that since she took over, Ms Macapagal has not paid enough attention to the concerns of the youth, particularly the perennial tuition hikes.

The CEGP and NUSP said their members will picket the CHEd office in Pasig City next week. They said they will also link up with affiliated militant groups for a multi-sectoral protest rally at Mendiola on June 4.

List not final

Among the schools raising tuition are St. Scholastica's College, University of Santo Tomas, Centro Escolar University, Trinity College, Adamson University, Far Eastern University, San Sebastian College, Manuel L. Quezon University and the Technological Institute of the Philippines.

CHEd said the list was not final as schools have until May 31 to notify the agency of plans to hike their fees.

"The main reason for the rising tuition is the rising cost of living," UST's Fr. Roberto Pinto, vice rector for finance, was quoted in a recent issue of The Varsitarian, the official student paper of UST.

"I'm torn between the needs of the employees and the economic crisis," Pinto said.

CHEd requires schools to hold consultations with parents and students before raising their rates. It also mandates that 70 percent of fee hikes should go to salary increases for teachers and employees, 20 percent for facilities, and 10 percent as return on investment.

Teachers pursuing graduate studies are also expected to suffer because of the looming 100-percent increase in tuition for graduate programs at the University of the Philippines.

"How can the students trust CHEd if it admits it is powerless (to stop fee hikes) and even violates the very policies that it should be implementing?" Lagos asked. *With Lady Ann Briguera*

Roco stops donations

PUBLIC schools have been ordered to stop collecting "contributions" from students enrolling this year.

In a recent management meeting of education officials, Education Secretary Raul Roco repealed a department policy that allowed annual collections of P120 to P200 per student in the public schools.

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports had authorized institutions like the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, Girl Scouts and the Red Cross to collect contributions from public school students.

The DECS also allowed school officials to collect miscellaneous fees such as for identification cards, school publications, school organizations and medical reasons like the fight against tuberculosis.

Roco said he repealed the collection policy in answer to complaints of parents already burdened by the high cost of living.

He said he would instead set a day for each soliciting institution to visit the public schools to ask for "voluntary contributions." *Blanche S. Rivera and Lady Ann Briguera*

COMELEC officials proclaim broadcaster Ted Failon the elected congressman of Leyte's first district. VEN LABRO

Ted Failon scores upset win

By Vicente Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY--Broadcaster Ted Failon won the congressional seat in Leyte's first district, but for the rest of his life he will probably never forget what he had to go through to clinch it.

Failon, an independent candidate, was ranged against reelectionist Rep. Alfred Romualdez whose family has dominated Leyte politics for decades.

Romualdez's father is Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo Romualdez and his aunt is former first lady Imelda Marcos. His wife is the actress Cristina Gonzalez.

In the end, however, Failon beat Romualdez by more than 5,000 ballots, garnering 56,541 votes to the latter's 51,308.

Failon's victory obviously did not come easy.

After leading in the tally since 3 p.m. of May 14 and winning in four of the seven towns in the first district of Leyte, his proclamation was delayed by protests filed by his rival before the board of canvassers in this city and at the provincial level.

Failon was accused of massive vote-buying and of dagdag-bawas (vote padding and shaving) and a rally was staged against him in front of the Tacloban city hall where the canvassing was being held.

Failon's camp, however, would not be caught flatfooted. It also accused Romualdez of vote-buying and cheating.

Observers here noted that what worked for Failon was his campaign strategy of aligning himself with four independent candidates for councilor in Tacloban City.

That they also carried fellow broadcaster and independent senatorial candidate Noli de Castro in their slate helped.

Of course, Failon's exposure on radio and TV news contributed greatly to his victory. His being able to speak Waray, unlike Romualdez, was also a big plus.

Failon grew up and studied in this city. He graduated with a mass communications degree from the now defunct Divine Word University.

Ironically, he began his broadcasting career at a radio station owned by the Romualdezes here.

After what he went through during the campaign, it came as no surprise to his supporters, therefore, when at his proclamation Failon's smile turned to tears—of joy, thanksgiving and relief, one could only surmise. *With a report from Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Sandigan OKs motion

THE SANDIGANBAYAN last night granted a motion filed by government prosecutors to merge the charge of the illegal use of an alias lodged against ex-President Joseph Estrada with his plunder case.

Sandiganbayan 5th division chair Minita Nazario issued the ruling following a motion for consolidation filed by the office of the Ombudsman.

The illegal use of alias charge stems from Estrada's alleged use of the name Jose Velarde in opening a trust account that contained more than P1 billion at the Equitable PCI Bank.

Former Equitable PCI Bank Senior Vice President Clarissa Ocampo told impeachment prosecutors she witnessed Estrada sign his name when he opened the account in Malacañang when he was still President.

Nazario said the court decided to consolidate the case with the plunder charge that Estrada also faces in Sandiganbayan "for practical reasons."

The plunder charge has been assigned to the Sandiganbayan's 3rd division chaired by Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy.

Arraignment has been set on June 15.

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Light plane crashes; 4 hurt

FOUR persons were injured after their private Cessna plane crashed in an industrial park in Lapu-lapu, Cebu, only minutes after it took off from the Mactan airport, the Air Transportation Office said. .

Pilot Capt. Ion Nacilla and passengers Paul Abadilla, Rey Gallo and Warren Cortez were pulled out of the plane's wreckage and immediately rushed to the Mactan Community Hospital.

The extent of their injuries was not immediately known.

Sen. John Osmeña yesterday said he used to fly on the four-seater plane, owned by the Pamplona Plantation Co., when he would go for weekend visits to his farm in Negros Oriental.

Osmeña said the plane, whose engine had just been overhauled, was being "flight-tested" when it crashed.

"So I guess something went wrong (during the flight test)," he said.

The four-seat Cessna 182, registered as RP-C1935, crashed in the Cebu Industrial Park in Basak, Lapu-lapu, several minutes after it took off at 2:10 p.m. from the Mactan International Airport.

Captain Nacilla declared an emergency three minutes after being airborne. A few minutes later, the wreckage of RP-C1935 was spotted by the crew of another aircraft, RP-C2132.

This is the second time this week that a Cessna figured in an accident. On Thursday, a Cessna 202 chartered plane caught fire while flying over Isabela. The pilot managed to land the plane safely at an airstrip, saving the family of six who were on board.

Last week, a private Bell-407 helicopter crashed in the outskirts of Puerto Princesa, Palawan, killing all six passengers, including the mother of Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes.

Hours later, a Sikorsky S-76 helicopter, which flew to the site to rescue the passengers of the downed private chopper, also crashed, killing all seven Air Force men on board. *TJ Burgonio with Christine Avendaño*

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Smuggling case vs Erap pal transferred to Manila by DOJ

By Rocky Nazareno

THE SMUGGLING case against a close friend and former adviser of deposed President Joseph Estrada has been ordered transferred from Zamboanga City to Manila.

This after Justice Undersecretary Manuel Teehankee noted that Zamboanga City chief prosecutor Manuel Tatel had failed to comply with an April 20 order of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to bring the case against businessman Le Peng Wee to Manila.

Teehankee and Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño yesterday directed Tatel to turn over the records of the case to Senior State Prosecutor Leo Dacera III at the Department of Justice.

Le, former adviser to Estrada on Mindanao affairs, has been charged with violating the Tariff and Customs Code and the Toxic Substances Act, after Zamboanga customs officials seized last year a shipment of 39 drums of toxic chemicals, some of which could be used to manufacture illegal drugs.

The shipment's papers listed Le as the consignee.

Customs officer Ma. Lourdes Mangaoang, who led the filing of charges against Le, had expressed "doubts about the prosecutors in Zamboanga.

"There's something fishy here, (that's why) I believe in the state prosecutors," Mangaoang said.

Le, who failed in his recent bid to be mayor of Zamboanga, is believed to wield tremendous influence in western Mindanao.

Mangaoang said that among the toxic chemicals found in the shipment was methylene chloride which could be used to manufacture methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu.

Also found was toulene disocynate, which could also be used to make drugs as well as explosives.

Mangaoang said that while Le was not a respondent when the case was first filed, his name was added to an amended complaint along with seven others on Jan. 4.

LE PENG WEE

"The shipment seized was consigned to (Le), his office received the billing statement," Mangaoang said.

The importation of the chemicals needed the approval of the Dangerous Drugs Board, the Environment Management Board and the PNP Firearms and Explosives Unit.

Mangaoang said Le could not show any permits when he was asked by customs officials.

Mangaoang also told the DOJ she has been receiving death threats since she filed the charges against Le.

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Bomb scare sends police rushing to Pimentel home

By Froilan Gallardo
PDI Mindanao Bureau

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A mysterious package sent policemen rushing Thursday night to the residence of Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

It turned out to be a bomb scare.

A private security guard found what he believed to be a bomb outside the Pimentel home on Hayes Street here and immediately called the police to remove it.

Policemen led by Chief Insp. Antonio Montalva, deputy city police chief, found a battery inside a softdrink can left outside the Pimentel home.

Pimentel is taking the threat very seriously.

"According to the report I received from the police, the homemade bombs were very crude with timing devices," he said over dzBB radio.

The Senate President speculated that the foiled bomb attack was meant to scare his son, Aquilino III or Koko, from filing cases of election fraud against his political opponents who allegedly cheated in the May 14 congressional elections.

"I will pursue the cases against my opponents and if the evidence would warrant (it), I will file (charges) against (Mayor Vicente) Emano," Pimentel said.

Emano, whom the young Pimentel challenged for the mayorship, is a staunch supporter of jailed ex-president Joseph Estrada.

"I think the message there is that they are trying to scare me because I am exposing cheats in the elections," the elder Pimentel said.

He said the threat on his life would not prevent him from going after the politicians wherever they may hide.

The Comelec vote count yesterday showed Emano was leading 84,649 votes against Koko with only 42,224 votes.

No one from Koko's slate won a seat in the Cagayan de Oro council which Emano's Padayon Pilipino party mates swept.

The senator on Tuesday filed a petition before the Comelec First Division seeking the disqualification of the entire Padayon Pilipino slate.

Pimentel alleged Emano and his party mates used government funds to buy votes and fielded flying voters in violation of the Omnibus Election Code.

The Comelec on Wednesday issued a temporary restraining order suspending the proclamation of Emano, his party mates and Rep. Constantino Jaraula.

Emano supporters responded in outrage and this has heightened post-election tensions in the city.

Kusog Mindanao, a group composed of Emano's supporters, plans to stage a protest action to demand the immediate proclamation of Emano and his party mates. *With a report from AFP*

Enchanted Kingdom WELCOMES LIFE FOUNDATION May 18, 2001

A SONG-and-dance number by the children draws warm applause on a rainy afternoon. Mafel, 10, is second from right.

UP, up and away on a carnival balloon for these two kids.

JYSIAH, 4: 'He didn't feel dizzy at all'

Saturday in the park for Life and 40 kids

By Leila Salaverria

STA. ROSA, Laguna—Their bodies may be ravaged with disease but this did not stop some 40 children from having the time of their lives at the Enchanted Kingdom on May 19.

The children are the beneficiaries of the Leukemia Indigents Fund Endowment (Life), a nonstock, non-profit group that provides physical, financial and emotional support to children with blood diseases like leukemia and hemophilia.

With the help of the Manila Jaycees, the kids—some of them weak and balding from harsh chemotherapy treatments—their parents and siblings were treated to fun and games. And for a day, they forgot that they were sick.

At the theme park, the children were welcomed by a wizard, mesmerized by a fire-eater and entertained by dancers. Manila Jaycees president Joseph Luna, Dr. Alendry Caviles and Life chair Dr. Jose Luis Orosa gave pep talks.

In turn, the children sang and danced, to the delight of the audience. They also joined an art contest, competed in a "statue dance" contest and played a game of "Bring me."

Spunky girl

One of them was 10-year-old Ma. Felisa "Mafel" Espuraque, who has acute lymphocitic leukemia (ALL), an ailment that affects mostly children.

Mafel is small for her age and her hair is thinning. Like most leukemia patients, she has to wear a face mask to prevent infection. But her energy and cheerful attitude belied any hint of the suffering she must have been undergoing due to her illness.

Her eyes widened as she marveled at the mascots who welcomed the children to the park. She gamely posed for pictures with an "alien." And with her sister, Florence, she had fun riding the Ferris wheel, the carousel and mini roller coaster.

Mafel was diagnosed with ALL three years ago. She stopped going to school because of the chemotherapy and bone marrow treatments she had to undergo. But this June she will be back in school as a second grade pupil.

"My friends will be in sixth grade and they may have already forgotten about me," she said. "But it's okay. I can make a lot of friends easily."

Mafel says she is "almost well," except for her liver which was affected by chemotherapy. She hopes her leukemia will stay in remission because she is excited at the prospect of going back to school.

She loves Math and Science, too. Her dream is to become a doctor and "help sick children like myself."

Mafel's fun was cut short in the afternoon when it rained. Her mother, worried that Mafel would catch pneumonia, took her back to the bus.

Mafel did not sulk. As the rain poured outside, she quietly read a comic book. She had the same positive attitude when asked whether her thinning hair bothered her.

"It will grow back," she said matter-of-factly

Anonymous sponsor

In her three years as a beneficiary of Life, Mafel has made friends with her fellow patients. One of them is her "Kuya Erwin," 17-year-old Erwin Ang.

Erwin is the oldest in the group. He dressed like most teenagers—loose T-shirt, jeans and a baseball cap (to hide his bald head). The only indication that he was sick was the face mask he had to wear.

Erwin was diagnosed with ALL two years ago. He considered himself fortunate because Life still accepted him as a beneficiary despite his age. Life usually accepts children 12 years or younger.

Through the kindness of a rich Chinese businessman, Erwin underwent treatment for his illness. He has never met this sponsor, but he remains grateful because the treatment is very expensive.

He will start college in June and will be taking up Information Technology, although he also wants to study engineering.

Erwin rode the Ferris wheel and the Log Jump with another ALL patient, Christian, and 13-year-old Joshua Monesit, who has hemophilia.

They wanted to ride the Space Shuttle, a roller coaster with a lot of loops, but Christian had a stomachache.

Bald humor

The three teenagers joked and laughed as they recounted what they did during the trip to the park.

Joshua teased Erwin on his baldpate.

"(Erwin) shaved off his hair because he was afraid that if he rode in one of the rides, his wispy hair would be blown off," Joshua said.

Erwin had undergone bone marrow treatment the day before.

One of the youngest ALL patients who joined the trip was 4-year-old Jysiah Anson. He came with his brother, Jysrael, and parents, Juvy and Joynes.

Except for his bald head, Jysiah looks healthy. But recently suffered a relapse and had to undergo bone marrow treatment.

Jysiah is a quiet but energetic child. He eagerly tried several kiddy rides with his parents.

"He didn't feel dizzy at all," said his mother as they alighted from a parachute-shaped ride that went round and round. "I was the one who got dizzy."

Holistic approach

According to Dr. Alendry Caviles from the Fe del Mundo Medical Center, Life functions like a trust fund that sets up a patient-directed account for each of its beneficiaries. All donations for patients go directly to this account.

"It's better this way so we can give an accounting to the donors," Caviles said.

Aside from financial help, Life also provides "art, play and spiritual therapy," and sponsors fun activities like their recently concluded sportsfest for its beneficiaries.

Life also includes the child's family in its treatment program. They have a voluntary parent's support group.

"It's a holistic approach to treatment," Caviles said.

The children and their parents trooped back to the bus at sunset.

A bit tired but very happy, they settled down for the long trip back to Manila. Most of them were smiling as they left the place. Even for those who were wearing face masks, one could tell they were smiling. You could see it in their eyes.

OIL PRICE HIKE

Palace appeals for understanding

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACAÑANG yesterday appealed for understanding from consumers protesting the recent oil price increase, explaining that the government cannot intervene to prevent petroleum price increases.

Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the government always risked being blamed every time the oil companies increased the prices of their products.

"The poor will always complain . . . but we really have to accept that there's a private economy where the government cannot intervene every time prices increase," Tiglao said at a news briefing.

Church and transport groups have warned that the new round of oil price increases, the first under Ms Macapagal's watch, would further alienate her from the country's poor.

A militant coalition of farmers' organizations in Quezon province accused the government of pandering to the oil companies which they alleged contributed money to the administration candidates in the recent elections.

Tiglao explained price increases as a function of market forces.

"We have to learn to adjust to that," he said.

He said that price increases are the result of the post-Marcos administrations' policy of deregulating the markets.

"(This is) unlike during the martial law regime when the government would set price controls and then let the taxpayers subsidize or pay for it later," Tiglao said.

Tiglao shrugged off threats by civil society groups to stage another people power uprising, saying not all members of civil society "are that militant, maybe even unreasonably militant."

"We of course respect their opinion but we appeal to them to try to understand that these increases are really due to world market prices," Tiglao said.

Tiglao said the President was standing by her statement that she won't "go down to the level of multinationals to beg" them not to raise oil prices.

He said it would be Energy Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho who would meet with the oil companies, find out the reason for the proposed increases and discuss with them the timing of future increases.

The Ugnayan ng mga Magsasaka sa Quezon (Ugma-Quezon) assailed the "highly suspicious timing" of the oil price increase which it claimed was part of an election-related deal with the oil companies.

"This oil price increase is the result of the campaign solicitation to the big-time players in the oil industry made by some scheming minds in the Macapagal-Arroyo administration," said Rene Cerilla, Ugma-Quezon chair.

Cerilla said it was now "payback time" for the oil companies. *With a report from Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Gov't issues 87 'passes' to NDF

By Carlito Pablo

THE GOVERNMENT has issued 87 safe conduct passes to the leaders, consultants and staff of the communist National Democratic Front so they could participate in peace negotiations with the government.

Chief government negotiator Silvestre Bello III said issuance of the passes is part of confidence-building measures being undertaken by the administration in support of the talks.

The peace negotiations, which were restarted on April 27-30 in Oslo, Norway after a one-year suspension, are expected to resume on June 10, possibly in the same place.

Negotiators are reportedly just waiting for President Macapagal-Arroyo's approval for the talks to resume in Oslo.

Negotiations are currently focused on social and economic reforms, which both sides hope will address the root cause of the 32-year communist insurgency.

The next phase of the talks will deal with political and electoral reforms, while the last stage will be on the cessation of hostilities and the disposition of rebel forces.

Bello said both sides are tentatively set to meet on June 4-5 at the Development Academy of the Philippines in Tagaytay City to tackle socioeconomic reform proposals.

The meeting will be attended by members of the subcommittees created by the reciprocal committees working on socioeconomic reforms.

The government has created four such subcommittees—on the national economy and industrialization, on agrarian reform, on environmental protection and sustainable development, and on social justice.

The subcommittee meetings will be preceded by a government workshop on socioeconomic reforms in Makati City on May 30. Both sides have agreed to complete negotiations on the reforms within six months.

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Sons also rise as old politicians fall

(From page A1)

at the congressional seat.

Sen. Nikki Coseteng, one of the 11 senator-judges who voted "no" to a crucial evidence in the impeachment trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada, lost in her bid to reclaim the congressional post in Quezon City's third district.

No longer qualified to run for the Senate after serving two terms in the chamber, Coseteng decided to return to the House of Representatives. She had launched her political career by winning that seat in the 1987 elections.

Mike's sis

But her former constituents apparently won't have any of it. She lost to neophyte Maria Theresa Defensor, sister of former Rep. Michael Defensor, who is now presidential adviser for housing.

The Coseteng name, however, won't disappear from the city's political scene. Nikki's son, Julian, was reelected as councilor in the same district.

Another "no" senator, reelectionist Juan Ponce Enrile, is in danger of losing his first elections in at least two decades. He is one of the Puwersa ng Masa candidates still fighting for the last and 13th slot in the Senate. He is occupying 14th place in the official Comelec count and 15th in the Namfrel quick count.

But his only son, Juan "Jackie" Ponce Enrile Jr. held his own and easily won a second term as representative in their home province Cagayan.

Former Presidential Commission on Good Government chair Magtanggol Gunigundo, meanwhile, failed to duplicate the success of his son, Magtanggol Jr.. in Valenzuela.

Magi, as the younger Gunigundo is called, is the incumbent representative for Valenzuela's second district. He was elected to a second term by a landslide.

Plastics prince

The elder Gunigundo lost to 27-year-old Sherwin Gatchalian, son of "plastics king" and Estrada crony William Gatchalian, in the city's other congressional district.

Former Rizal Vice Gov. Benjamin Felix, meanwhile, lost against the wife of incumbent Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares Jr., Nini.

Felix's son, Nick, had more luck as he was re-elected mayor of Cainta.

There were instances, however, where father and son shared the same fate and fortune.

Former Manila Mayor and Interior Secretary Alfredo Lim lost his bid to regain City Hall from incumbent Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, who was vice mayor for two terms during his mayorship.

Lim's son, Roland, also lost as councilor in Manila's first district.

Atienza's son, Kim, however made it a winning father-and-son tandem, still again, when he was reelected councilor as topnotcher in the city's fifth district.

Lim's most trusted aide, Rafael Garayblas, also fielded his son, Pio, as councilor in the fifth district. But the younger Garayblas lost.

The scions of three incumbent senators also failed to cut it.

The son of Senate President Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr., "Koko," lost as congressman of Cagayan de Oro City.

The daughter of Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta, Rissa, lost to incumbent Malabon-Navotas Rep. Federico Sandoval.

Barbers brothers

Sen. Robert Barbers' son, Dean, lost his bid as Makati vice mayor although his other sons won big in Surigao del Norte. Robert Ace Barbers, one of the Spice Boys of the 11th Congress, was elected to a second-term as Surigao del Norte congressman while his brother, Robert Lyndon, won as governor of Surigao del Norte.

The son of National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, Jose Enrico "Rico" Golez, also lost his bid to replace his father as Parañaque congressman.

The elder Golez reportedly wanted to run for senator after his three terms as congressman ran out, but did not make it to the administration ticket.

Children of three other senators fared better.

The eldest daughter of Sen. Tito Sotto, Lala, 26, was elected councilor in Quezon City's fourth district.

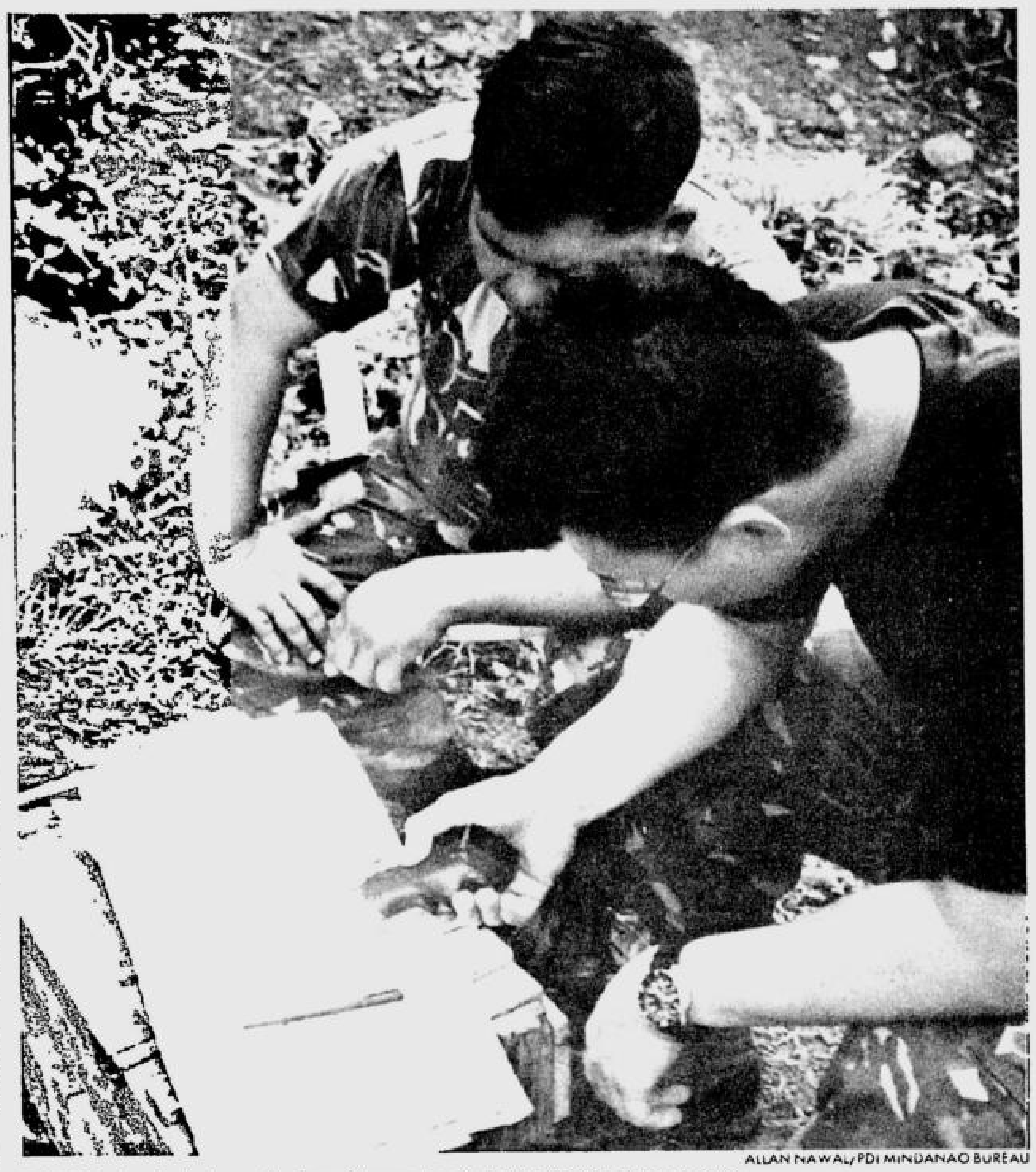
The son of Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, Rozanno Rufino "Rufie" Biazon, defeated incumbent Muntinlupa Rep. Ignacio Bunye.

Sen. John Osmeña's son, John-John, was elected Cebu vice governor.

Of course, there is the case of JV Ejercito, Estrada's son by former starlet Guia Gomez. JV easily won as San Juan mayor, the position held by his father and his half-brother, Jinggoy.

It remains to be seen if JV will follow his father's career path.

2 soldiers, 5 bandits slain



ALLAN NAWAL/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

BATTLE plans include positioning of troops shortly before the bloody encounter.

(From page A1)

All four of the hostages whom the gunmen used as guides and "human shields" have been able to escape.

The last of the hostages, Hamid Muda, 23, escaped when the gunmen sent him to find food.

Muda, a resident of Barangay Kidalapong, told the INQUIRER that he was very nervous leading the 23 gunmen along trenches, hills and creeks starting the dawn of Wednesday.

He said the gunmen were members of the extremist Abu Sayyaf and were led by a certain Ustadz.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva had earlier said the gunmen were "bandits" and "pirates," and not members of the Abu Sayyaf.

Undersecretary Jesus Dureza, President Macapagal-Arroyo's assistant for Southern Mindanao concerns, ruled out the involvement of the Abu Sayyaf or of a breakaway group of the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front in the attack on Pearl Farm.

"My fear was that the soldiers might catch up with the Abu Sayyaf, and that we could be hit in the crossfire," said Muda, who appeared to be very tired. "(The gunmen) were already hungry and exhausted from the long walk."

He said that in the course of looking for food, he stumbled on a group of soldiers pursuing the bandits and was immediately taken into custody.

Some 150 families fled their homes on the instruction of Davao del Sur Gov. Rogelio Llanos and sought shelter at the Mana Elementary School.

"I have ordered the barangay officials to bring their people to safer areas to give way to this full military operation," Llanos said.

He said he had directed the provincial disaster coordinating council to provide the evacuees food and emergency shelter.

Health officials have also been alerted as the military operation is expected to last for days.

M-60 bullets

Three of Muda's companions, whom the gunmen picked up from Kidalapong on Wednesday, escaped earlier.

One even brought with him a bandolier from an M-60 machine gun that he said he had been made to carry since Wednesday.

"We were very nervous but we had to follow their orders. They might have killed us if we refused to lead them the way," Muda said.

He said that because he and the other hostages were "cooperative," the gunmen treated them very well, "except for the food."

"They were eating biscuits but they would not give us a piece. They were obviously saving their supply," he said.

ALLAN NAWAL/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

THE KEY person, Hamid Muda, who led the military to the hideout of the 23 Pearl Farm raiders. He had been taken hostage to serve as the raiders' guide through the Malita ranges in Davao del Sur.

Muda said the band was composed of Tausug men with ages ranging from 17 to 35, and Ustadz, who was about 50 years old.

"They were fully armed," he said, adding that they were prepared for any eventuality judging from the store of bullets and a bag full of medicines they brought along.

Muda said the gunmen wanted to go to Barangay Nuwing, a coastal village in Jose Abad Santos town some 80 kilometers from Mana.

He said it would be impossible for the gunmen to get there without guides.

'Only propaganda'

In an interview with a radio station in Zamboanga City, the Abu Sayyaf claimed that the raiders of the resort were its members.

Dureza said, however, that the claim was only "for propaganda purposes." He said the armed group could be gunrunners.

Brig. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag, commanding general of the 4th Infantry Division, also could not say to which group the gunmen belonged. They were earlier reported as led by a certain Datu Hashim.

Dagudag said the gunmen came from the Davao Oriental coastline.

"But they lost their way, so they approached the marina of Pearl Farm. Probably they didn't know where they were," Dagudag said in a press conference yesterday at the resort.

He ruled out speculations that the attack was a kidnapping attempt, saying there was no hostile approach.

"First, it was low tide. They could have entered several points, and they immediately disengaged," Dagudag said.

DOT blitz

The Department of Tourism has embarked on an aggressive media and promotional blitz to preserve the confidence of international and domestic tourists and deflect the negative image portrayed by the Tuesday attack.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon is organizing members of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (Focap) for a tour of Pearl Farm to show the world that the exclusive resort and other tourist destinations in Mindanao and the rest of the country are well-secured, and that the attack was an isolated incident.

Sonia Rodriguez, DOT director in Southern Mindanao, said Gordon and a Focap delegation were to have arrived at Pearl Farm yesterday but had to suspend the trip because of problems in getting a plane.

She said the tour would be rescheduled shortly.

Rodriguez said Gordon had committed to put Davao areas on top of the promotion blitz list. She quoted him as saying that the region would still be one of the country's seven tourist anchor destinations.

Senior Supt. Eduardo Matillano, regional police chief, brought his family and in-laws to the resort for a vacation to prove that everything was under control.

Pearl Farm general manager Alex Groizard said the resort continued to enjoy high occupancy despite the attack.

He said that some 170 guests, including 10 Koreans, checked in yesterday, and that more guests were coming in the next few weeks.

With reports from Jowel F. Canuday and Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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FBI frees ex-PCGG chairman

US FEDERAL authorities have freed former Presidential Commission on Good Government chair David Castro, who was detained in connection with an alleged attempt to sell fake gold certificates, the government said yesterday.

Castro, 68, was given back his passport after he checked into a New York hospital for heart surgery, acting PCGG chief Jorge Sarmiento said.

Castro and Edilberto Marcos, a Filipino who claimed to be the son of the late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos, were arrested in the United States five weeks ago.

They were reportedly trying to sell an undercover Federal Bureau of Investigation agent a fake $20-million share certificate in gold worth $800 million supposedly stored in a Swiss bank.

Castro reportedly told FBI agents he was acting as a government representative trying to collect taxes on the transaction involving the gold. But President Macapagal-Arroyo's government disowned him.

With the FBI's act of returning his passport, Castro "is free to do whatever he wants," Sarmiento told reporters. He said Castro had been released on humanitarian grounds.

The PCGG released a report from the Philippine Embassy in Washington that said Castro's lawyers demanded the FBI pay for his hospital costs in exchange for his decision to cooperate with them on the prosecution of Edilberto Marcos.

"However, initial reports reaching our office said that the FBI no longer may be in need of Mr. Castro since they already have a strong case against Mr. (Edilberto) Marcos," the report said.

Sarmiento said Castro's doctors at the hospital had recommended he undergo angioplasty, surgery to clear arteries.

The late president Marcos has only one acknowledged son, Ferdinand Junior, who is now governor of the northern Philippine province of Ilocos Norte.

"It could be a humanitarian move on the part of the FBI," PCGG acting chair Jorge Sarmiento told the INQUIRER in an interview yesterday. "It was probably because of his heart condition, and the fact that he has low risk of fleeing, compared to Edilberto Marcos."

The FBI report said that while the US authorities allowed Castro out of the FBI's custody, his "indictment . . . will follow." Marcos, who was considered by the FBI as more likely to flee authorities, has been indicted in the US court on April 30, according to the report.

A source confirmed that Castro has been out of the hospital since May 13, after he was given a pacemaker to improve his heart condition. The source added that the former PCGG chair could be coming back to the country soon.

"He's not yet off the hook, and it's not clear whether the FBI would drop the charges against him," Sarmiento said.

He added that the PCGG would seek a dialogue with Castro when he is back in the country, adding the PCGG would review its plan to pursue charges against Castro for tagging the government in the alleged fraudulent act. *Reports by Blanche S. Rivera and AFP*

6 in poll fraud case seek gov't protection

By R. Nazareno and A Nocum

FEARING for their lives, six witnesses in the alleged election fraud case in Northern Samar have asked to be placed under the witness protection program of the justice department.

The witnesses, who are residents of Barangay San Juan in San Isidro, Northern Samar, executed affidavits yesterday charging gubernatorial candidate Raul Daza and reelectionist Rep. Harlin Abayon with falsification of public documents to commit electoral fraud.

The administration's People Power Coalition yesterday said Daza should be investigated and prosecuted even as PPC senatorial candidate Ralph Recto accused the opposition of allegedly targeting him for *dagdag-bawas* (vote-shaving) to improve the chances of their candidates who are occupying the 13th to 15th slots in the continuing vote count.

PPC candidates in Northern Samar, alleging massive poll fraud, have asked the Comelec to nullify the election in that province.

Daza, Abayon and other LP candidates in Northern Samar, all of whom were allied with the opposition Puwersa ng Masa, took the gubernatorial and two congressional seats. The PnM also swept all 13 senatorial seats.

The witnesses claimed to have seen Daza and Abayon, with three local Commission on Elections officials, allegedly engaged in an ''unusual activity'' inside the San Isidro session hall after the canvassing of votes was supposed to have been ''totally completed.''

One of the witnesses, who took a video footage of the activity, attested that he saw members of the Municipal Board of Canvassers—Comelec official Juchita Collamar-Sy, district school supervisor Eugenia Jumadiao and treasurer Gilda Bulalaque—in the municipal hall with Daza and Abayon.

"I saw Sy opening the sealed ballot box and taking out some sealed envelopes inside the ballot box and presented it to Jumadiao, to the members of the BOC and then to the people inside the session hall," the witness said in a two-page affidavit.

The five other witnesses said those inside the session hall were allegedly in cahoots with local police and that they ''were indirectly connected with the Liberal Party-Daza faction.''

Like the witness who took the video footage, they testified that the alleged electoral irregularity allegedly occurred on the evening of May 17.

''We were surprised to see them inside the session hall because we definitely knew that the election canvassing was completed at around 3 p.m. of the same day,'' the witnesses said.

Others named in the complaint were Roldan Sabayo, Rodolfo Asuero, Enrique Palop, Liza Cornilles, PO2 Roldan Collamar, Renelda Beltran, Fe Sola, Arnel Castillo, Paul Montecalvo, Nardito Calpos and Victorino Ibanez.

Also charged were Mayor Conrado Avila Sr., Ferdinand Avila, Gloria Avila, Leila Collamar-Sy, Wilnie Cabatingan, Enrique Palop Jr., Liza Cornilles, Fe Puazo, Leticia Dente and Rosalita Mahinay.

Others charged were Titulo Ibañez, Imelda Subiaga, Amelia Grimpula, Fe Sabayo, Rose Cabahug, Diana Balunan, Evelyn Rabas, Fely Sola, Nancy Amor, Joel Salor and SPO2 Manuelito Labrador.

PPC spokesperson Conrado Limcaoco said that Daza's admission that the LP may have paid the BEI members, although he denied this was intended to cheat the candidates, was incriminating.

"It amounts to an admission of guilt because he's scared," he added.

In making an indirect admission of the alleged pay-off, Limcaoco said Daza was apparently jumping the gun on those who are now coming out to report it.

"He doesn't want to be called a liar," he said. "So, it is better that he comes out now because all these are now coming out in the open."

Limcaoco warned the recently proclaimed Daza that "massive fraud" or an "admission of fraud" could be made a basis to disqualify a government official.

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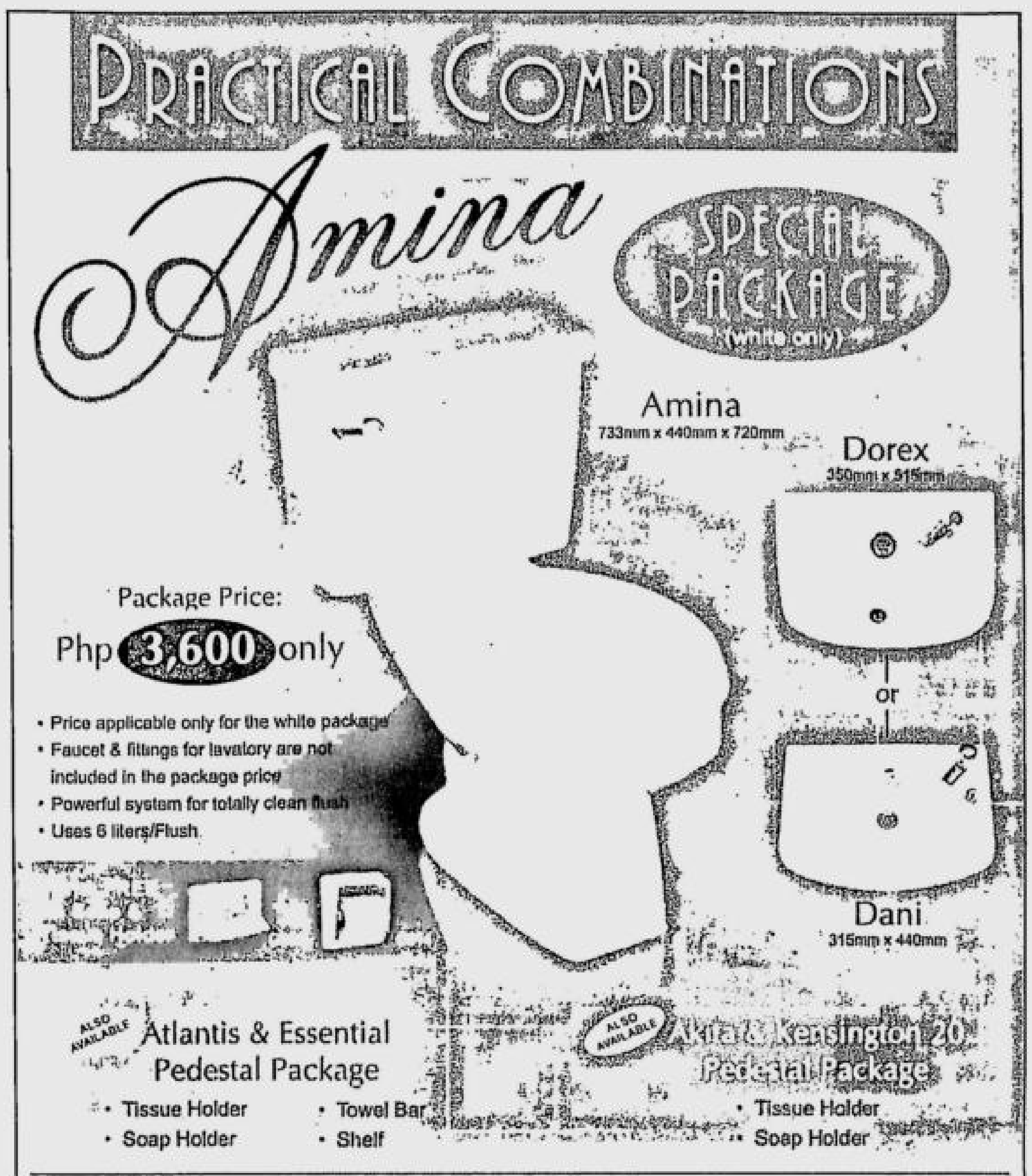

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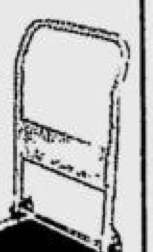

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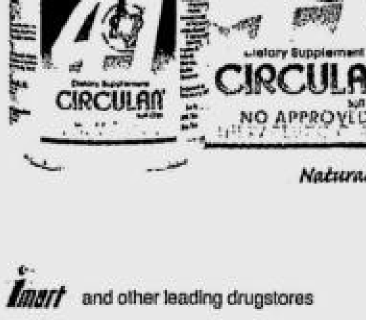

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The hostage presidency

EDITORIAL

THE PHILIPPINE presidency is vested with awesome formal powers by the Constitution. The president is commander in chief of the Armed Forces, appoints senior officials in the Cabinet and the bureaucracy, initiates a national agenda before Congress, exercises veto power over legislation and authorizes release of public works and budgetary appropriations.

These formal powers are reinforced by informal powers flowing from the institution of the presidency itself. She can gain support through her power of distributing patronage. Filipinos expect their presidents to be strong. This is in keeping with their culture that admires and respects strong leaders. Despite their ungovernable nature, Filipinos respond best to strong leaders—even caudillo types. This is manifested in the lengthy dominance of the political scene by strongmen like Manuel Quezon and Ferdinand Marcos.

Filipinos may bridle at strongmen but if you give them a weak president, all their fissiparous tendencies break out to the surface in the name of individual rights and democracy. They become unruly. There is nothing that they abhor more than weakness in the presidency.

When President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo stood her ground, declared a state of rebellion and ordered the dispersal by the military and police of mobs who attacked the seat of power on May 1, she won respect from both the opposition agitators and the public. The opposition may have quibbled over the warrantless arrest of some of their leaders and the language of the declaration itself, but her stout defense of her office and the state immobilized the revolt and its leaders. She instilled some fear in them that the President had used the powers of state to save the state. For a few days, agitator-leaders were silent and some—like Gregorio Honasan and Panfilo Lacson—disappeared.

The exercise of presidential powers to defend the state and the authority of the chief executive cannot be compromised without reducing her capacity to govern. When President Macapagal showed weakness in bowing to demands for concession by deposed President Estrada to be given creature comforts while in detention, she lost many of her supporters who expected her to be firm on the rule of law while inviting more onerous demands from Estrada and his cohorts.

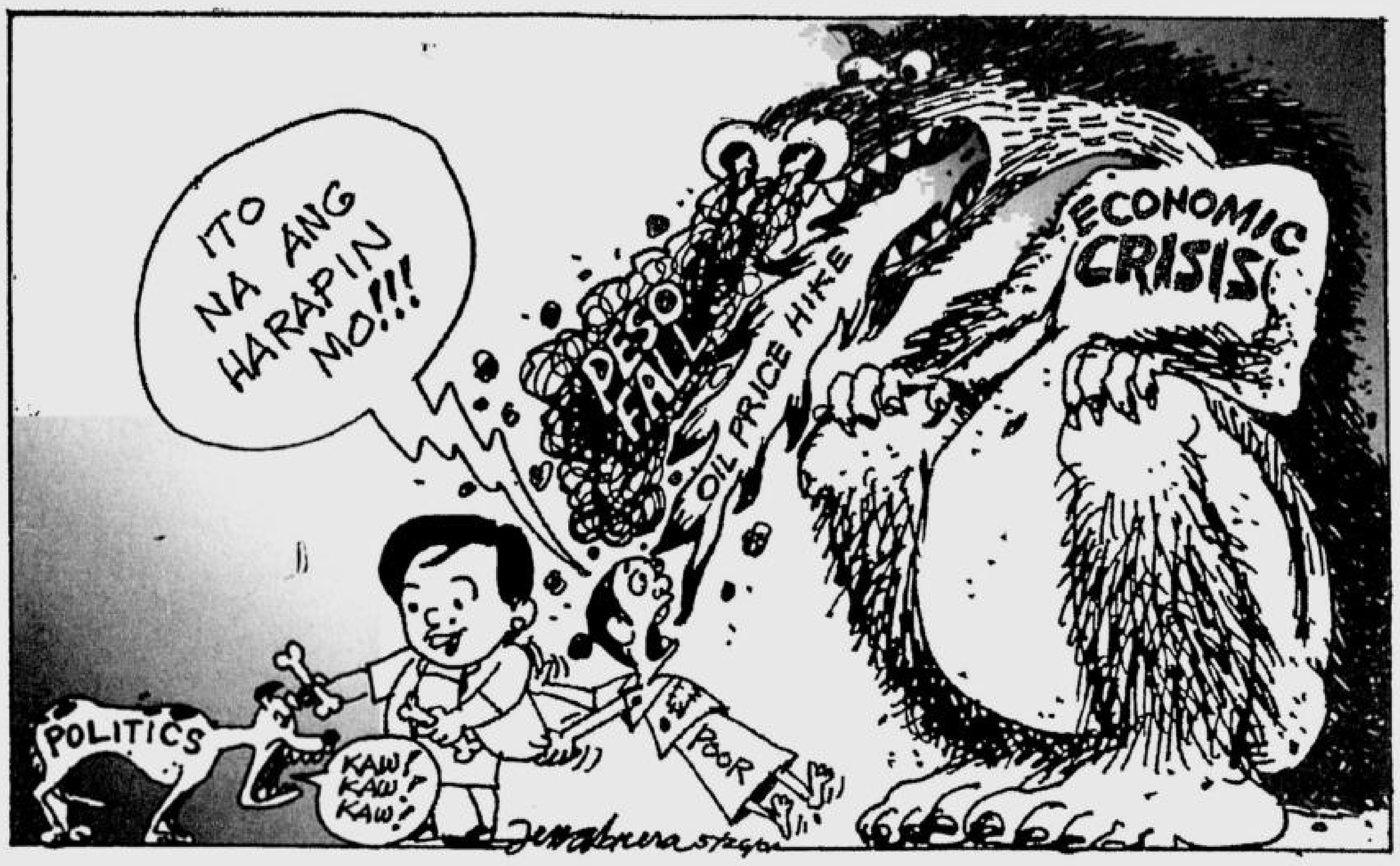
Her retreat from demands of leniency for Estrada has shifted public attention to the issue of house arrest away from the fundamental issue that Estrada faces serious charges of having plundered the wealth of this nation. Because of the storm over house arrest, we have forgotten that Estrada faces trial for offenses that have to do with making him accountable for the exercise and abuse of power during his short-lived presidency.

President Macapagal's coddling of Estrada has made the presidency hostage to demands for privileges for Estrada. It has also set off counterdemands from other citizens that she enforce the rule of equal treatment before the law. The backlash to her decision to build a detention annex at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center for Estrada while he stands trial has been so powerful that she has ordered a suspension of the construction.

The building of the annex is reported to be a concession to the demand of the Iglesia ni Cristo as a middle ground to house arrest. It is called "hospital arrest," to save face for the government. In this deal, the government has lost face—not Estrada, not his lawyers, not the INC. Because she has lost her spine, the presidency has also lost respect. The presidency has now become a bashing beast of pressure groups.

There's a point at which President Macapagal must stop yielding to demands that compromise the principles of fair and equal administration of justice. Yielding to demands for privileges in the treatment of prisoners robs the presidency of its authority. The petition for house arrest has already fostered requests from other prisoners like Rep. Romeo Jalosjos for the same privilege. The rule is invoked that what you give to one, you can't deny others. If you don't, you will tie yourself in a knot of contradictions.

It's time President Macapagal act consistently in the exercise of the powers of her office. Denying petitions for leniency could be exploited by Estrada's cohorts to incite again the mobs to violence. These factors have narrowed her options. She is walking a tightrope. But the worst option is to cripple the powers of her office by bowing to blackmail from her political opponents. If she loses her authority, her presidency will soon be a lame duck.



Protesting the election

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

NOW that the elections are over, the next step is the protests. That's inevitable. Either the protestants are sore losers or they have really been robbed. The larceny is more often the case but it's not that easy to prove.

I sat on the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal for seven years as one of the members and later as chair from the Supreme Court. During one congressional term, we were deluged with more than 50 cases that we had to decide within three years. We managed to do this under the leadership of Justice Ameurfina Melencio Herrera, who was the chair at the time.

A goodly number of those cases were summarily dismissed on technical grounds like prescription or failure to pay the filing and other fees. It was also relatively easy to dispose of the *quo warranto* cases because they involved legal questions that did not require much fact-finding. The cases that gave us the most trouble were those that alleged election irregularities.

The usual charges were vote-buying, terrorism, vote-padding, falsification of the election returns, illegal voting and snatching of ballot boxes. These required time-consuming examination of witnesses and documents. What also demanded much of our attention was the appreciation of contested ballots and votes based on the statutory and jurisprudential rules.

To beat its constitutional deadline, the HRET worked overtime. Our sessions began in the early afternoon and stretched into the night. Justice Herrera was a taskmaster who was not above scolding the legislators on the tribunal whenever they deserved it. For all their combativeness in Congress, they never talked back. Our chair was so strict that she even fined absent members.

It was during Justice Herrera's chairmanship that, with Justice Florentino P. Feliciano as our third colleague from the Supreme Court, we resigned from the HRET in protest against the interference of the House in our exclusive functions. In the case of Bondoc v. Pineda, 201 SCRA 792, with the three of us inhibiting ourselves, the Supreme Court upheld the independence of the HRET through Justice Carolina Griño Aquino.

The Bondoc case was one of the few decisions of the HRET ousting the majority protestee. As a rule, the lawmakers from the majority party outvote the minority lawmakers and the Supreme Court justices where the protestant is from the opposition. This is possible because, unlike before, the legislative component of the electoral tribunals is now apportioned among the several parties and party-list groups represented in the chamber.

The Commonwealth Constitution provided for a more realistic membership in the electoral tribunals, with only the majority and minority parties each represented by three members sitting with the three Supreme Court justices. Whenever the legislative members voted along party lines, the justices broke the tie according only to the rule of law and thus ensured a fair decision. This kind of solution is hardly possible under the multi-party membership of the electoral tribunals.

It is worth noting that a substantial number of cases filed with the HRET are eventually withdrawn. The most common reason is the prohibitive cost of maintaining them. The initial filing fee of P5,000 is graduated according to the amount claimed as damages, and an additional P5,000 deposit is required for both quo warranto petitions and protests or counterprotests.

Where the protest or counterprotest requires the bringing of ballot boxes or election documents to the tribunal, an additional cash deposit of P500 per ballot box is required, to cover transportation and handling costs. If at least 100 ballot boxes are protested, the deposit will be P50,000, and this will be correspondingly increased as many more ballot boxes are involved. A cash payment of P75,000 must be made within 10 days if the deposit exceeds that amount, the balance payable in installments as indicated by the tribunal.

The cost of bringing witnesses from the provinces to the tribunal and of their board and lodging while in Metro Manila will have to be borne by the interested party. The witnesses will never have it so good with their all-expense-paid vacation, complete with a guided tour of the metropolis. The parties will also have to provide for the attorney's fees, which will be substantial if they are represented by hotshot lawyers.

These expenses, incidentally, will increase a hundred-fold if the protest involves the Senate, where the members are elected at large. Significantly, no senatorial election protest has prospered under the 1987 Constitution, and neither has any presidential or vice-presidential election protest succeeded under both the 1935 and 1987 charters.

Faced with all these difficulties, with the disputed term threatening to overtake the decision of the case and the outcome still uncertain, the party may despair of continuing his protest. In the end, he may decide to withdraw his case and try to salvage his financial losses through some extra-judicial compromise with his opponent. This is not likely either.

These observations are made not necessarily to dissuade losing candidates from questioning their rival's victory in the electoral tribunals and the courts of justice. My purpose is merely to inform them of the pitfalls they will encounter, not only in proving their charges, but also in defraying the expenses of their protest.

But if the losing candidate is prepared to win his case and has the funds to maintain it, then let him do so by all means. I wish him the best. The election cheats have no right to sit in the councils of our government and should be kicked out of their stolen positions. Heaven knows there are so many of them.

Test of government's resolve on CARL

COMMENTARY

Nono Alfonso, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

THEY almost joined the mob that attacked Malacañang on Labor Day. Cesar Cabrera, one of the 13 farmers of the Task Force Mapalad-Negros Occidental now camping out at the lobby of the Department of Agrarian Reform, clarifies, however, that they are not pro-Estrada. In fact, he says, their group even campaigned for his impeachment last year.

Under the Estrada administration, the farmers in Negros Occidental gained nothing. And yet, Cabrera says, for a while, it was tempting for them to join the urban poor that rallied in Mendiola. Perhaps if only to draw national attention to the plight of the thousands of farmers and farmworkers in Negros.

Since April 23, Cabrera and the 12 other farmer leaders have been rallying outside the DAR office in Quezon City. It was there that they got wind of the rally of the poor in the Edsa Shrine and their attack of Malacañang on Labor Day. They were also there when election day came and went

Each one of them represents a farmers' group in Negros Occidental and all are part of the Task Force Mapalad-Negros Occidental which is the umbrella, province-wide federation. The name rings a bell because they are somehow linked with the ill-fated Mapalad farmers from Bukidnon who gained national attention for their hunger strike about two years ago. The Task Force Mapalad-Negros Occidental claims a membership of some 4,493 farmers and farmworkers who are spread over 105 haciendas which in turn occupy 10,650 hectares or 15 municipalities in Negros Occidental.

Why are they now in Manila? The group has decided to go to Manila for three basic reasons. First, on April 16, 149 of their members were scheduled to be installed in four haciendas as legitimate Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law farmer-beneficiaries. Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza however postponed the installation, citing as reasons the possible bloodshed between the police force he brought with him and the guards from the haciendas. The group however recounts that even the guards gave deference to the PNP officials. The installation did not push through, the group claims, because Braganza did not have the "political will" to make it happen. One of their reasons for this rally, thus, is to pressure the DAR to install the farmers. They have vowed not to leave Manila until this is achieved. As of this writing, Braganza fortunately has promised to install them not later than the end of the month.

Secondly, Cabrera and his group are also in Manila to protest the bureaucratic red tape and the paper chase that the farmers in Negros have been subjected to. In processing their claims, they have been made to go from one local DAR office to another and at times to another government agency only to be told later that they went to the wrong office. The process, they say is labyrinthine. They feel that even the DAR offices are confused, if not unaware, of their authority and responsibilities. The group's objective in Manila is to straighten out all these procedures once and for all. In what can be a streak of genius, they propose that the DAR assemble a "workshop" in Negros wherein all concerned government agencies, together with farmer-beneficiaries, can finally clarify their roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis the implementation of CARL.

Finally, the Task Force Mapalad-Negros Occidental is knocking at the doors of the central government in Manila to bring to its attention the long and sordid plight of the farmers in Negros. Since the passage of CARL in 1988, the farmers there have been waiting for the economic deliverance that the agrarian law has promised them.

Recounting their pitiful condition, Cabrera narrates that in the hacienda where he used to work, most of the sugar worker get only P200 a week (for a two-day workload) and two kilos of rice—not enough he says for a family of four. He also tells of the force and intimidation used upon them by a landowner when the latter found out that they were members of farmers' organizations that are pushing for CARL's implementation.

Not a few families, he says, have been evicted from their homes, some literally bulldozed even while they were still inside their shacks. Cabrera says they have suffered long enough. They now call on the national government and the Philippine society in general to address their plight.

The case of the Negros farmers could not have come at a more opportune time.

After the Mendiola riot on Labor Day, the government has made pronouncements about fighting poverty. The case of the Negros farmers will be a test of that resolve. How it will implement the agrarian reform program in Negros and promote the rights and welfare of the thousands of farmers there amid the resistance of powerful landlords like Cojuangco and Starke will be the measure of its political will to serve the poor of this country.

Hold Erap's detention and trial at Veterans

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo did right in postponing the construction of a detention house for her deposed successor in the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, until after the Sandiganbayan rules on his house arrest. I'm glad she listened to the clamor from her support forces to leave this issue to the graft court, which has the final say anyway. Ms Macapagal said that if the graft court rules favorably on "hospital detention," the detention house, which will be surrounded by a security moat and a watchtower, could be finished by the Armed Forces within two to three weeks. Judging from the swiftness of the construction time, it's obvious that this won't be anything like Erap's Boracay mansion—more like low cost.

It seems that Erap's returning to Polk Street in Greenhills is out of the question even for the graft court, as the Greenhills residents themselves are the first to object to it. The VMMC is the best solution.

* * *

This column supports the Palace stand, which, in turn, supports the request of the Philippine National Police, that the arraignment and trial of Estrada be held in the same hospital compound, which is quite vast. The justices could just be transported for the trial. This is the simplest and least expensive solution to the problem.

The PNP's reason is that transporting Estrada to and from Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, to the Sandiganbayan would be a security nightmare. I agree. In fact security is the rationale that would justify the added expense of a new detention house inside the VMMC; the hospital suite currently housing the Estrada father and son now has many corridors, making security difficult.

Besides, it's really better to detain Estrada at the VMMC for the trial, as he's getting on in years and sicknesses are bound to be triggered even by depression, as any doctor would attest to. If he stays inside the hospital compound he'd get appropriate medical attention. In Ms Macapagal's mind, doubtless she doesn't want to be blamed by Erap's supporters for not giving him such medical attention. Moreover, could anyone imagine the even added traffic pandemonium that would be caused if Erap were to be moved constantly to and from the graft court to Laguna?

* * *

Actually, a house arrest for Erap could easily become a non-issue if his lawyers had right from the beginning filed a motion for bail for him, as any lawyer worth his salt would do for his client right away. To merit bail, lawyers have to prove that the case they are handling is light enough. The problem, however, as Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo pointed out in a recent TV talk show, is that Erap's lawyers refused to file for bail since that would entail a bail hearing which would become a mini-trial since it would bring out all the pieces of evidence the Ombudsman has. In Estrada's case, his lawyers obviously realize how heavy the evidence is; hence, as Marcelo pointed out, instead of suing for bail they try to delay the case.

Speaking of the trial, Erap is against a televised trial as he knows that this would revive all the evidences raked up in the Senate impeachment trial. Obviously, many people in this land of short memory have forgotten them or refuse to admit them. But an open trial would revive them.

* * *

Despite his wife Vilma Santos' campaign and a famous name, Rep. Ralph Recto wasn't the most exciting senatorial candidate in the recent elections. But now he's thrust into the limelight as he and reelectionist Gregorio Honasan compete for the 13th place in the magic circle. Suddenly, however, there's an added twist: former Sen. Arturo Tolentino, a man in his late '80s whose mind remains clear as ever, has opined that electing the 13th senator may be invalid since that needed a special law, but no such law was ever enacted. We may presume that either the People Power Coalition or the Puwersa ng Masa would question the legality of the 13th post before the Supreme Court, even as they exert all effort to keep their respective candidates safely ensconced in No. 12.

* * *

This means that the remaining results of the Mindanao canvass could determine the 12th winner. What is worrisome, however, as Comelec Commissioner Rex Borra pointed out, is that 12 days after the elections, the ARMM results have not come in yet. Borra more than insinuated that hocus pocus could be going on there, but it's tragic to hear him admit that the Comelec is powerless to do anything about it. After the dust of electoral battle settles, Congress ought to conduct a thorough probe of all that went wrong in this electoral exercise and what could be done to minimize a repeat of the guns, goons and gold syndrome.

I realize that the members of Congress probably have little moral authority to conduct that probe, considering that many of them figured in the political intramurals themselves. But there is no other body that can probe and legislate solutions.

* * *

Earlier I wrote about the pitiful plight of former society painter Leopoldo Lee Aguinaldo II, who is now very sick, being in need of a second heart bypass. I would like to repeat his appeal to those who are holding his paintings as well as other property without payment—a very sick man needs your compassion. Lee sent this column a thick wad of documents to argue his case. "Please help me get back my paintings," he pleaded, "I am a sick man in need of help." I wrote of Lee's pleas two months back, but the Madrigal family, perhaps caught in the election fever, never answered; hence this renewed appeal.

As Larry Henares wrote in his column in Isyu, three years ago, in December 1978 the Madrigals evicted Lee from his home of 16 years at the Patio Madrigal Compound in Pasay City because he couldn't pay rentals amounting to P50,000. Larry points out that in the middle of the night, agents swooped down and carted a number of Lee's paintings as well as artworks that included a mosaic coffee table by Arturo Luz and a portrait of Lee by Fernando Zobel. Lee contends that they are all presently in the possession of Chito Madrigal Collantes, but that he did not file a recovery case because he couldn't afford to hire a lawyer. Lee insists that the appliances the Madrigals took more than paid for the P50,000, and that he needs the art pieces back or their payment. Henares also wrote that a painting of Lee worth P1 million is now in the possession of former Sen. Freddie Webb.

Moreover, Lee is appealing to the Air Transport Office, now headed by my good friend retired Gen. Bert Yap, to settle a score with him. As Larry wrote it, over 25 years ago, the AFP took over Lee's property in Puerto Princesa in order to expand the AFP's airstrip there. Lee demanded a measly P2,500 per sq. m. for that property, but up to now, he says he has not been paid for it, the AFP's excuse being that it has no funds. Lee says his letters to Presidents Ramos and Estrada got nowhere. Could he find justice in this dispensation? Bert, could you look into this and let me know? There's a very sick man who needs help and perhaps justice.

What 'new politics'?

COMMENTARY

Leandro V. Coronel

IF anyone has seen evidence of "new politics," please call us immediately. Better still, call the National Library so they can document it.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, in her early days at the national helm, told us she was embarking on this "new politics." This was to be the signal for the breakaway from our traditional "old politics," particularly the aborted bizarre politics of Joseph Estrada. This "new politics" was going to be evident in the People Power Coalition's campaign leading up to the May 14 elections.

It's possible my attention has been so diverted I've simply missed manifestations of "new politics." As I've said, if someone out there has proof, even just faint signs, of "new politics," kindly bring them to our attention.

Frankly, I haven't the foggiest idea what this "new politics" is all about, what form it takes, or if it smells or squirts out deodorizing spray. The only thing I gather from the President's statements is that it's a departure from our old system of politics. And that it will be good for all of us.

Is it just me or is everybody also in a quandary as to what "new politics" is all about? Am I too dense to not see it? It's hard to think that the President, intelligent as she is, would foist on us some new idea without any flesh to it. Or has she been pulling the wool over our eyes and we're too dumb to know?

Whatever, I can only say I haven't seen any evidence of "new politics."

(I refrained from discussing this topic earlier for two reasons. I didn't want my commentary to be seen as an effort to undermine the PPC campaign. And I thought it prudent to give the President more time to enunciate her "new politics." But now it appears she announced "new politics" prematurely—a shell without a body, a model without clothes, a vehicle without an engine. "New politics" is a scarecrow flapping hither and yon out in the political meadowlands.)

What I saw during the recent campaign can only be called old politics. Did you see the President dancing onstage with the senatorial candidates? You may accuse me of being old-fashioned, but the President didn't look dignified bouncing onstage in that Cory-yellow suit, clapping her hands up in the air. If that was "new politics," just give me leftovers from the old politics.

In fairness to the President, that was the only time I caught her dancing in that old-style campaigning mode. Perhaps she realized the absurdity of it.

At this juncture of our political history, when many people decry dynasty politics, what's the President's son doing running for vice governor of Pampanga? At the time when many of us want to demolish feudal politics, exemplified by the dynastic hold of many families on local politics, they send Mikey Arroyo out to his mother's home province to start his political career. This is "new politics"?

I'm not sure Mikey can speak beyond "Tarzan" Kapampangan. He's too raw, and I guess Pampanga is his boot camp. He's so unsure of himself. Jullie Yap Daza asked him what his sister Luli is doing professionally and he said he didn't know. Is that real? You don't know what your own sister is doing?

Daza asked if there's truth to the rumor the governor of Pampanga, the Erap-oppressed Lito Lapid, will be given another position so Mikey can take over the governorship. His response "I don't know."

That response can mean two things: that the rumor is true and Mikey was simply responding "I don't know" to evade the question. Or his "I don't know" means he's not in control of his own plans but, rather, they're being orchestrated by others.

As a Kapampangan, I would probably, benefit more if I ingratiated myself with the President and now Mikey, having been elected vice governor of my home province. But one can't just ignore the haughty ways of the President and the inconsistencies between her rhetoric and actions. To put it in more contemporary terms, it would be good for me if I kissed ass the way many others are doing. But thanks, but no thanks.

The President went (again) to men in military garb and ate with them with her bare hand. Is that "new politics"? That's Erap politics. Remember when Erap received flak for eating bare-handed and he was called a hypocrite? What's the difference now? I can only scratch my balding head.

Ms Macapagal has been a very visible president. She's on the cover of newspapers practically every day, whether she's teeing off at some benefit golf thing, dancing with tribal women in Benguet or trying her hand at loom-weaving. (Incidentally, did you see the front-page photo of the President teeing off at the Alay sa Kawal Cup last Sunday? Note Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes behind her and tell me this guy isn't a stooge.)

Ms Macapagal has always had good PR sense, even in her days as senator and vice president and Cabinet member. During those days she, in photo-op setups, was often, if not every day, in media. This is because she has an active PR staff led, one gathers, by a PR man who was also used by Erap when the ex-president wanted to tamper with the Constitution in a failed undertaking called "Concord." Is this PR man Ms Macapagal's Svengali, her hypnotist and string-puller? I hear it was this PR man who fed Ms Macapagal the "I shall crush you" line and now the "Ate Glo" makeover idea.

If the President is serious about transforming Philippine politics, she has to match rhetoric with results. She can't simply go around babbling about "new politics" and then leave us wondering what it's all about. I didn't see signs of it in the recent campaign, I hope to see it in the coming days. Otherwise, "new politics" will go down in history as just another empty slogan. Like "Erap *para sa mahirap.*"

Leandro V. Coronel is a former spokesperson of the World Bank in Washington, D.C.

Men in history

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

IN THE COURSE of doing research, it isn't unusual to run into another topic that has nothing to do with what you are working on. If it's really something earth-shaking or innovative, then it's called serendipity, according to a professor of mine long ago and far away. Usually it's just a subject of interest to the researcher. Like witness the following information.

Obviously, you can't write about the Age of Discovery without mentioning Ferdinand Magellan as the West knows him; Fernando de Magallanes as the Spaniards called him; or Hernando de Magalhaes, his baptismal name, which no one outside a Portuguese-speaker can pronounce. We don't know what his mother called him because formal history doesn't bother with picayune details such as did they have nicknames in the 15th century in Portugal. So maybe she didn't call him anything special aside from "*ese hijo mio.*"

Our author, a Mr. Cabrero, does say there's been a lot written about Fernando (Spanish period) or Ferdie (American regime), take your pick. His father was Ruy Rodrigo but his mother has no name so you immediately know you're dealing with a male historian. His grandfather was Pedro Alfonso but again no grandmother.

He came from a landed family and was connected with the court from an early age. Like many boys of that era, he was restless and inspired by the discoveries of Vasco de Gama. Thus he signs up with D. Francisco de Almeida, the first Viceroy of the Indies according to the Portuguese. I don't know what the Spanish had to say about that. His biographer has nothing to say about the women in his life despite the restlessness.

He participates actively in the campaigns of Mombasa and Quiloa and the conquest of Malaca and then signs up again on a ship under Francisco Serrao, destined for the Moluccas and the spices. Shipwrecked, he heads back for Malaca and back to Portugal where he joins an expedition to Africa and promptly gets involved in some spurious deal and becomes *persona non grata* in court.

Disgraced, he takes off for Spain with the cartographer Ruy Faleiro and manages to get a *padrino* in Sevilla by the name of D. Diego Barbosa who is also Portuguese and the Teniente del Alcaide de los Alcazares y Atarazanas, not to mention Comendador de la Orden de Santiago—all of which must mean that the man had some kind of social clout and money. Our boy ends up marrying one of the Barbosa girls named Beatriz and takes off for the Royal court. It is 1518 and he is 38. It doesn't mention how old Beatriz was, if she had any say in the matter, if she married him by choice or what. As a matter of fact, this is the last we hear of her.

In the same year he makes contact with Jean Sauvage, an advisor of King Carlos whose name sounds French, who in turn introduces him to Bishop Fonseca, the man in charge of explorations to the Indies. Now don't ask why it was a churchman. Probably because in those days few knew how to read and write. Fonseca was impressed with the credentials of Ferdie and Ruy and in less than three months Magallanes has his five boats.

Not that what you see is what you get. Fonseca for reasons best known to himself, decides he doesn't want Faleiro around because the guy's Portuguese and not Spanish or some such excuse. The other reason given is that Faleiro is irascible. Five hundred years later, who would know or care? So Fonseca begins to plot and comes up with the brilliant notion of appointing Faleiro as standard-bearer whose responsibility is really Magellan's as the captain of the expedition. Naturally, Magellan and Faleiro have this confrontation and Magellan writes his protest, requesting that Faleiro be removed. This gives Fonseca his excuse and the good bishop appoints Juan de Cartagena instead, a Spaniard, as co-captain with Magellan.

In the meantime, Magellan proceeds to decorate the lead ship with colorful flags and buntings pertaining to the Portuguese and ignores the royal standard of Castile. This is weird considering the Portuguese had roundly rejected him. The Sevillanos are understandably infuriated with what they consider an insult, and challenge the small band of Portuguese sailors. Fonseca orders Cartagena to start acting like a co-captain and reduce the number of Portuguese on board. (This could be part of the machinations of Fonseca anyway to give more jobs to the natives.)

How Antonio de Pigafetta, an Italian from Vicenza, to whom later generations owe the account of the voyage published as "Primo Viagio" but translated as "Primer Viaje" and now commonly known as "First Voyage" etc. etc., got on board, is anybody's guess. No one knows what he was doing in Seville aside from looking for a job or what strings he pulled to get into this one. Suffice to say as is disgustingly, repeatedly, endlessly said these days about the most inconsequential incidents, "the rest is history."

My beef is what happened to Magellan's wife? He marries her, takes off, gets into some scrap involving local politics in Cebu and promptly gets himself killed. Hopefully, she was young enough or rich enough or pretty enough to find consolation elsewhere. As it is we don't even know if they had any offspring. Come to think of it, we don't know if he liked women. This is nothing new. I doubt if Ms Columbus, Ms Cortes, or Ms Vasco de Gama merited more than the single line accorded to Beatriz Magallanes.

Growing up with Lolo

YOUNGBLOOD

Ria Pineda

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

IF there is someone I wish would stay and teach me about life, this person would be my Lolo. My Lolo's name is Lorenzo de Guzman Estrada. My Lolo showed me how it is to care and love while I was very young. You see, while my sister was the favorite of my Dad, I was the favorite of my Lolo. While my Dad was carrying my sister on his lap, I was on my Lolo's lap. He would usually sit on this big, wooden rocking chair and I would sit on his lap and we would rock away till I fell asleep in his arms. He would then lay me on their bed and I would sleep between my Lolo and Lola till the next day. It was okay for me to stay with them then because my parents slept in a room on the floor above us. The house where I live at present was being constructed back then.

There were many times when my Lolo showed me that I was his favorite. There was a time when we were watching something on TV. I was sitting on his lap again on this rocking chair and I noticed that my cousins and siblings were looking at me. It felt like their eyes were telling me that I was *sipsip* and somehow it also felt like they were envious of me because I was the one on Lolo's lap and not them. And so, I said to my Lolo, "Lolo, *o, tinitingnan nila ako*!" To my delight, my Lolo answered, "*Inggit lang sila kasi maganda ka.*" Of course, that really swelled my small head then.

There was also a time when I was just 7 months old and I was hospitalized. My Lolo cried when he saw me with the dextrose connected to my forehead. He kept on saying "*Apo ko, ang paborito kong apo.*" These two memories would always bring me to tears. Each waking moment before my kinder years, I would be beside my Lolo listening to his stories about legends and his life when he was a kid. Sometimes, I think when I was young, I loved my Lolo more than my Dad. It is because I felt much closer to him and he showed me how much he loved me by favoring me above the rest and looking at my best attributes.

Once, my Mom told me that when we were young, my Dad scolded her because he felt that we loved my Lolo much more than them. This incident happened after both my parents went home (our house now) from work to have lunch. At the same time, my Lolo went home. We usually welcome my parents with shouts of "Papa! Mama!" and "*Pasalubong!*" but instead, we were shouting at the top of our lungs "Lolo!" He waved at us in reply and we waved back at him till he got inside his house. Perhaps my Dad may have been expecting that welcome greeting for him from us that day, that's why he made reacted that way.

So many years have passed and the strong Lolo I had then is still as strong as he is. Now you can see the years through his eyes that are lit with hope. My Lolo walks with a cane but every time I see him walking with it from his room to the living room, he always tells me, "Next week, *kaya ko na and mag-isa, kahit wala ang baston ko.*" Every time I visit him before I go to school, he tells me "*Mag-aral ka nang mabuti kasi 'yan lang ang maipagmamalaki mo.*" I feel guilty at times when he does this because there are times when I just want to finish the day, half-listening to the teachers and half-dozing off to some imaginary world and then go home so that I could sleep. My Lolo inspired me to be the best that I could be because he made me realize that I have better opportunities than he had.

My Lolo grew up in Pangasinan and he migrated to Manila for college. He worked his way through college by being a working student during the post-Japanese regime. I could imagine how much hard work he did with the political and economic crises that the country went through then. I am very fortunate that I have him as my Lolo because he worked hard to ensure the stable and fruitful future of his children and grandchildren. My Lolo and my Lola imparted the faith, good moral values and importance of education that would help their children survive and live life to the fullest. The same way of life is being passed on to the younger generation by my Mom, *titos* and *titas*. The core values that we have been brought up with keep us together as one happy family. This legacy of keeping our ties amid the occasional *tampuhan* has been instilled in us to remind us that, in the end, we've only got each other.

You see, I consider my Lolo as the epitome of what a son and brother should be like. He scraped out coconut meat for a wealthy neighbor and plowed the fields from morning till night while his siblings played the guitar and sang the night away. Upon completion of his tertiary education, he supported his siblings' education. Moreover, he built his own house for my Lola while allowing his siblings to live with them while they attended college. From rags to riches—a fairy tale made real.

Very recently, we had a videoke session in my Lolo's house. I sang and at the end of my song, my Lolo clapped for me with his hands held up high. You see, my Lolo's exercise every day was to lift his left hand as high as he could because his muscles there are getting "lazy," as we would call it. I knew it was an effort for him to do that gesture. I realized that after all these years, I was still his favorite.

My Lolo has another favorite granddaughter now. She stays with my Lolo and Lola every time her parents go to work. Sometimes, she even scolds my Lolo saying that he is stubborn and not her. My Lolo just smiles and gives her what she wants. Somehow, I could see myself in her, playing with my Lolo way back then. I would have probably scolded him then too so that I could get what I wanted. I envy her for having all the time to spend with him.

However, I am sure there was one experience she didn't get to spend with him. She wasn't able to sleep in his arms as he sat in that wooden rocking chair.

Ria Pineda, 19, is a Computer Science student of the De La Salle University. She wants to be both a computer scientist and a lawyer someday.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

THEY SAID

Time for specifics

"We should move beyond wholesale charges to specific cases."

—People Power Coalition spokesperson Conrado Limcaoco, challenging the opposition to cite specific cases of fraud

You win or you lose

"You either win or lose. We don't have to blame others. There'll be time to assess our mistakes."

—Orlando Mercado on his probable defeat in the senatorial elections

Only the marginalized

"Now the Comelec is blaming the long list of party-list groups for the delay in the canvassing of votes in the party-list elections. Why did they not trim down the list and select only the groups that represent the marginalized?"

—Manuel Batac, president of the Pinagbuklod Bagong Pag-Asa Association Inc.

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Mother's cry for justice

I AM the mother of Fernando Lozada, the recent victim of the reportedly bungled operation of the police intelligence group in Quezon City.

In our large family, Fernando was always the one at the butt end of his siblings' jokes because they knew he was the only one who was not *pikon*. He was a very kind and gentle person, he was the driver of those who don't drive, and his car was always available to those who didn't have one. He was the classic gentle giant. Everybody will have to meet his Creator someday, but my son did not deserve the way he died.

The police have already admitted to the media that this was a case of mistaken identity for a confidential "legitimate operation." If this is so, and this is the way they do things, then I fear for their real targets. *Nakakatakot naman ang mga pulis natin*! As reported, the officers already realized their mistake, yet they still finished the "job."

Why did they have to carry out the execution when he was with two innocent children? Two teenagers on their way to a friend's debut, with their whole lives ahead of them. Now, Marianne has also passed away. I hope there's a parent among those killers.

How many mistakes have been made so far? How many more will come?

The ultimate insult here, is that despite admitting their mistake to the press, we have not heard from anybody at all from the government as of this writing, May 21st. We have so many questions begging for answers.

Now, we live in constant fear especially for the safety of my granddaughter. I have lost a son, will I lose a granddaughter, too?

We are so touched to see the train of people paying their last respects to my son—friends, colleagues and co-workers. As one of his peers was telling me the other night, "Ma'am, if your son wasn't a good man, there wouldn't be this kind of crowd."

So now, despite this tragedy, I feel some gladness in my heart, because through other people's stories, I came to know my son better. I know that we have raised a good Christian, a respectful son, an indulgent sibling, a benevolent boss, an exemplary employee, a caring husband and a great father.

I am very proud of my son and I feel honored that I have given Fernando to this world, even for a short while.

I hope the proper authorities will hear this mother's cry for justice.—**EUSEBIA LOZADA, Cainta, Rizal**

Elections every three months

ALTHOUGH I reside now in Quezon City, I find the just concluded elections an occasion to come home to my hometown—Mangaldan, Pangasinan. Besides, I always vote in my town.

I wish to share my observation with your readers during this past electoral process, particularly in this not so sleepy town of Mangaldan.

First, there were four mayoral candidates, two for vice mayor, and 25 for councilor. Democracy is really alive and kicking in this coastal town of the "Panggalatoks."

Second, on the very first day of campaigning (April 1, 2001), all these candidates launched their campaign juggernauts complete with giant full-color billboards, (yes, they also have these like the ones on Edsa) to noisy but festive motorcades.

The best part of the campaign though, was the unabashed buying of votes by the more affluent candidates. The local poor, unwashed and semi-literate had a field day forming beelines to some of the candidates' headquarters.

Well, we know that this part of the elections is illegal per se (bribery, where bribe-giver and bribe-taker are both liable for this poll violation) but of course, during elections, bribery is the rule rather than the exemption.

But you know what? It is ironic that the evil of vote-buying results in an economic mini-boom, at least temporarily. And so maybe to sustain the economic fact that money in the pockets of the *masa* triggers a buying spree for basic goods, I wish to suggest to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo that elections be held every three months, if only for the windfalls they bring even for a while.—**LEONARDO A. BIASON, 77 Poblacion, Mangaldan, Pangasinan**

Not the richest candidate

YOUR referring to me as "the richest candidate" (PDI, 5/13/01) does not sit well with me for I know that some other candidates are far richer than me.

The only difference is while my assets were fully disclosed in my Statement of Assets and Liabilities, the other candidates who are richer than me have theirs secretly stashed under certain corporations or some "foundations" for convenience—and to evade or to lower their tax brackets, if not to avoid paying taxes altogether.

Could their wealth be in secret bank accounts as well?—**MANUEL L. MORATO, Doña Consuelo Building, 192-194 Tomas Morato Ave., Quezon City**

Land mines a nightmare haunting Lebanon

FEATURE

Kinda Jayoush

NABATIYEH—A year has passed since Israel ended its 22-year occupation of south Lebanon, but residents of the region still live in terror of the land mines that are its despised legacy.

"I hate the land I used to farm because whenever I see it I remember that I lost my leg there," said 36-year-old Mustafa, the victim of a mine planted near Arnoun village in the occupation zone.

"Simply and all of a sudden I have become a disabled person. I have been trying to convince myself that it was something outside my control but it still hurts. I feel that whenever I need to stand on one leg," he said, his voice fading.

Land mines, most of them laid by Israel and its client militia, the South Lebanese Army, have killed 15 people and maimed 99 others in the year since the Israeli withdrawal, according to the National Demining Office (NDO), an arm of the Lebanese army.

Hizbollah, the main force behind Israel's pullout, also laid land mines in the area but the guerrilla group has worked to dismantle them since the withdrawal. Palestinian militias laid mines in the area during Lebanon's 15-year civil war.

The estimated 130,000 mines that remain cast a pall over daily life and hamper economic development in the region, where many residents depended on the Israeli occupation and, in some cases, jobs in Israel, for their livelihood.

According to the NDO, the most common land mines in south Lebanon are Israeli anti-personnel and anti-vehicle weapons, which accounted for more than 80 percent of the mine-related casualties registered last year.

"Land mines are everywhere here. They lie on the side of the street, in farmlands and even close to houses. The Israelis wanted to inflict the maximum damage to us," said Mustafa.

The Lebanese state, still reeling from the economic damage of the country's 1975-1990 civil war, is poorly placed to handle all of the demining operations the south needs.

Lebanon's army and Ukrainian troops with the UN forces in south Lebanon now handle most demining work in the region.

NDO statistics show the army, which has about 120 deminers in south Lebanon, has dismantled about 5,000 Israeli land mines and about 25,000 different kinds of shell and grenade in south Lebanon and the western Bekaa valley in the last year.

The Ukrainian battalion, which has sophisticated mine sappers, has dismantled about 3,000 land mines in south Lebanon.

But with Lebanon's public debt reaching some 150 percent of gross domestic product and the country in recession, the resources needed to stem the tide of victims must come from elsewhere.

The heavy casualties have spurred an international conference including potential donors and contractors to demine south Lebanon, at which UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's envoy to south Lebanon said the region could be mine-free in four years.

Staffan de Mistura said a $50 million donation from the United Arab Emirates would help bring the needed equipment and human resources for the project, which might otherwise have lasted for decades.

De Mistura said the scale of mining, which is light compared to the number of mines in some war zones, and the size of the 386 square miles occupation zone, makes demining in a few years feasible.

"With the $50 million there is no reason for not going down from 53 years which would have been needed if we had continued in the current (demining) pattern," he said.

Among the methods De Mistura hopes the funding will allow Lebanon to employ are the use of dogs trained to sniff out mines, and remote control detonation.

De Mistura said clearing south Lebanon would require about 1,000 deminers, compared to some 200 now in Lebanon.

The UAE grant could also be used to buy demining equipment, train personnel and hire contractors to remove mines. The demining conference demonstrated some of these methods at a Lebanese army barracks that still bears the marks of shelling by Israel's client militia, a reminder to the history of the former warzone and the challenge of making it safe.

Even with funding in place, a lack of expertise and dependence on old techniques to remove mines mean that for the foreseeable future the residents of the south cannot rest easy.

"I was walking near my village with my friend at night and I stepped on a mine," said Nazem from Haddatha village in the zone, who was wounded by a mine three months ago.

"I was there lying on the ground and no one was able to come and rescue me: not the Lebanese army, nor Unifil, as they feared there were more mines around. It was dark and I was really scared," he said.

Eventually a friend retrieved Nazem by cutting a path among the mines atop a donkey.

Israel has given the UN maps showing about 70 percent of the mines planted along the border.

Unifil officers say there are many thousands of others, the location of which they know only vaguely, leaving deminers to ply their trade one perilous inch at a time. *Reuters*

Tuition hike for UP graduate students

THIS coming semester, the University of the Philippines administration's opening salvo for its graduate students is a spate of tuition increases.

In a written referendum on April 23, the UP Board of Regents (BOR) approved tuition hikes in graduate programs in Diliman, Baguio and Manila campuses. In Diliman, 20 degree-granting units will increase their tuition from P300 to rates ranging from P500 to P1,500 depending on the college. This, we are told by the administration, is to catch up with inflation, peso depreciation and the higher costs of supplies and materials. If it's any consolation, UP president Francisco Nemenzo says that even with the adjustment, UP tuition "still lags behind Ateneo de Manila University and De La Salle," and that it has been 12 years since the tuition for masteral students has been raised. The administration also says the necessary consultations with students have been held.

These justifications miss a very important point. UP is a state university and as such deserves sufficient subsidy from the government. It is the state's responsibility to prioritize the education budget, making sure it does not get eaten up by inflation, peso depreciation and sky-rocketing costs of education materials. The burden must not be passed to the students.

And while it is true that for many years the administration has not resorted to tuition hikes as a means of raising funds, it has made the students pay for their education through the Socialized Tuition and Financial Assistance Program (STFAP) and imposed exorbitant fees. By saying that the increase in tuition is fine because it is still considerably lower than that of the Ateneo or De La Salle, the administration reveals that it views education as a commodity instead of the state's service to the people.

The students fear that the tuition increase in graduate programs is just the tip of the tuition hike problem. At present, there are proposals to annually increase the tuition of graduate students by 10 percent to 20 percent, to revise the STFAP and to ultimately increase the tuition of undergraduate students. These measures, the administration says, are to compensate for the university's meager budget as the government gradually withdraws subsidy from the education sector.

The scholars of the people condemn the tuition increase for graduate students and denounce the government's reneging on its responsibility of providing free and accessible education to its people.—**MICHAEL FRANCIS C. ANDRADA, vice chair, UP Diliman Student Council, Student Alliance for the Advancement of Democratic Rights in UP**

Identifying real from fake AFP men

THIS pertains to the news article titled, "Armed 'supporters' of Rep. Gonzales rounded up in San Juan," published in the May 15 issue of the INQUIRER.

In view of the said issue, I would like to inform the public that individuals who are posing as military personnel, particularly those of the Philippine Army, can be properly identified through authenticated military identification cards which are issued only by the Office of the Adjutant General (Otag), Armed Forces of the Philippines. This includes officers, enlisted personnel and even reservists of all the branches of the AFP. This system is being maintained to prevent forgery and mishandling of the said military identification cards.

To avoid further damage, similar incidents such as these can be reported immediately to the nearest military or police station for proper action and verification. Furthermore, in case of any doubt as to the authenticity of any military identification card, one may call the Office of the Army Chief Public Affairs, PA (Tel. No. 8921693), or better still get in touch with the Otag, AFP (Tel. No. 9117959).

I hope this will shed light on the use of fake military identification cards by people who are being used by unscrupulous groups to disrupt official functions of the government, particularly during the election period.—**LT. COL. JOSE Z. MABANTA JR., Army chief public affairs, Office of the Army Chief Public Affairs, Fort Andres Bonifacio, Makati City**

Are historic mistakes being repeated?

REBELLION broke out early in the colonial era. There were over 200 recorded uprisings during the Spanish period. The government suppressed the Cavite mutiny of 1872 within a day, but then overreacted to an imaginary broad separatist conspiracy. Jose Rizal had urged his former followers to seek change peacefully, but the Spaniards still charged him with being the revolution's principal organizer and he was sentenced to death.

"All the little insurrections that have hitherto occurred in the Philippines have been the work of a few fanatics or mutinous officers who have had to deceive or cajole or exploit their followers to achieve their ends...But suppose a movement were to arise from the people themselves, with the miseries of the people as its motive power? What then?"—Jose Rizal, The Philippines a Century Hence, 1889

"The broad masses of a population are more amenable to the appeal of rhetoric than to any other force..."—Adolf Hitler, Mein Kampf

Do we see the mistakes of history being repeated, or is hero Rizal to be ignored?—**EARL K. WILKINSON, Makati City**

It's Daza over Mathay, not Lagman

COLUMNIST Belinda Olivares-Cunanan wrote that "in Quezon City's fourth district, former Rep. Edcel Lagman seems to be scoring an upset over Quezon City Mayor Mel Mathay. Lagman is way ahead in the race with the support of the big UP community, with Mel coming in second, and Nanette Daza a poor third."

It is the other way around. It is Councilor Nanette Daza who is scoring an upset over Lagman and Mathay. Lagman is second only to Daza while Mathay is a poor third. Our source is the Quezon City election results.—**CELSO S. BRIONES**

Angono group recognizes Coching's art

MEMBERS of the Angono Ateliers Association are admirers of the late Francisco V. Coching whose works, drawings and illustrations touched the lives of Filipino readers when comics was the favorite pastime.

Many of our well-known artists today, born before the '50s, have somehow been inspired by the illustrations and drawings of Coching. He was considered the finest illustrator of our country and later was adjudged the father of Filipino illustrators by his own peers. To us, this has more honor and prestige than the National Artist Award because the title was vested on him by his own peers. The Philippine Association of Figure Artists once awarded Coching (while he was still alive) for its admiration of his art and his contribution in inspiring and influencing a lot of contemporary artists today.

For the last 10 years, the National Artist Awards (particularly in visual art) has lost credibility because the members of the panel of judges were probably not qualified for the job. Each of them must have the keen knowledge and broad information of all legitimate nominees for this prestigious award. We have heard that some recipients of this award were products of a good lawyer. This lawyer must be very rich now.

We join Neal Cruz in saying that the National Artist Awards is losing prestige and respect ("As I See It," 3/28/01) but we beg to disagree when he expressed his opinion about Coching's and Larry Alcala's contributions as if they were second-class artists. We believe that both illustrations and paintings have their own merit. We may not be illustrators ourselves but we give due respect to some of our finest illustrators in the country who contributed more in inspiring our youth in the arts today.—**NEMIRANDA, chair, Angono Ateliers Association**

More divisive than illuminating

I AM an avid reader of the INQUIRER and needless to say, I look forward to the news you bring every single day.

I look up to the INQUIRER as one of the straight, no-nonsense newspapers in this country. That is why I was shocked and appalled that the INQUIRER actually headlined the unconfirmed report of Chinoys funding the failed power grab that happened last May 1. (PDI 5/9/01) Being a Chinoy myself, I fear that your headline could bring further divisiveness to our nation not only between the poor and the rich, but also between Filipinos and Filipino-Chinese. We have been working hard to be accepted in mainstream society as brothers and sisters but this one issue could erase it all. Our country is in deep trouble right now. Let's not add to it by publishing unconfirmed reports that could possibly lead to worse situations.—**SUSANA DY, San Juan, Metro Manila**

Wahid rejects power-sharing deal

JAKARTA—President Abdurrahman Wahid yesterday ruled out further compromises to end Indonesia's political crisis and said he would not surrender executive power to his popular deputy to avoid impeachment.

He also rejected persistent speculation that he would attempt to dissolve Indonesia's parliament before it can move against him.

Wahid's comments in a series of appearances yesterday cast a shadow over the viability of a plan by senior ministers to save his faltering presidency through compromise.

"One of our recommendations is to find a win-win solution," Foreign Minister Alwi Shihab told reporters.

But just hours before they were to present their suggestions to him, Wahid said he could not make political deals that would breach the Constitution.

After attending midday prayers at a Jakarta mosque, Wahid said: "I have already compromised as much as I am able to do."

Earlier Wahid told reporters at the state palace that he had "always been ready to compromise," but with limitations.

"There will be no handing over of authority and responsibility for government policy-making" to Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri, he said.

Wahid brushed off fears that he would launch a pre-emptive strike and dismiss the parliament before its convenes next Wednesday when it is likely to demand his impeachment.

"Who said that? You guys believe too many rumors," he told reporters.

Tensions have run high in Jakarta after the military warned Wahid not to shut down the legislature by declaring martial law.

In recent weeks he has repeatedly rejected demands that he cede many of his powers to Megawati, who would be his successor should he be toppled.

Aides for Megawati also maintain that a power-sharing deal would breach the Constitution, which was penned 55 years ago by her father Sukarno, Indonesia's founding leader.

Rivalry between Wahid and Megawati has intensified after she publicly rejected calls by Wahid supporters to hold early elections. Moreover, she has stated that she expects to become president one day.

The parliament has twice overwhelmingly censured Wahid this year.

On Wednesday it is widely expected to ask Indonesia's highest legislative body, the People's Consultative Assembly, to go into special session and impeach him for alleged involvement in corruption and also for incompetence. *AP*

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Hamas carries out suicide attack in Gaza

NETZARIM JUNCTION, Gaza Strip—A Palestinian truck drove at high speed toward a heavily fortified Israeli Army post yesterday and exploded under Israeli fire in what the Islamic militant group Hamas said was a suicide attack marking the anniversary of Israel's troop withdrawal from Lebanon.

There were no casualties among Israeli troops.

The Army sealed off the area around the Netzarim junction along Gaza's main north-south road, and did not say what happened to the driver.

Hamas said the driver was killed and identified him as Hussein Nasser. The group said it had filmed the attack and would distribute the footage—a practice reminiscent of the Lebanese guerrilla group Hezbollah.

Hezbollah fought Israeli troops in southern Lebanon during Israel's 18-year military entanglement there, and during eight months of Israeli-Palestinian fighting deepened its cooperation with Hamas, based in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli troops withdrew from Lebanon on May 24, 2000, and the hasty pullback has been cited by many Palestinians as an incentive for waging their eight-month uprising against Israel.

In a leaflet distributed in the Gaza Strip, the Hamas military wing Izzedine al Qassam said that it carried out the attack to mark the anniversary of the pullout.

"We send our best regards to our brothers in Hezbollah, and we renew our congratulations on the first anniversary of liberation," the leaflet said.

The Israeli Army said the incident began when Israeli army vehicles blocked the Netzarim junction to Palestinian traffic to enable Israeli vehicles to pass. The truck drove around the Israeli roadblock, made a turn and headed at high speed down the access road to the Jewish settlement of Netzarim, the Army said.

Troops fired at the truck, which exploded several meters from the gate of the heavily fortified Netzarim army post, the Army said. Palestinian witnesses said black smoke rose into the air.

After the blast, Palestinian police fired from a nearby position at the Israeli soldiers, the Army said. In eight months of Israeli-Palestinian fighting, the Netzarim junction has been a frequent flashpoint.

Palestinian officials said that in response to the blast, Israeli tanks shelled a nearby Palestinian police station, and that three officers were injured by shrapnel.

Tanks, bulldozers and armored vehicles entered Palestinian territory in two areas—near Netzarim and near the Karni crossing between Gaza and Israel, Palestinian police said. Bulldozers erected embankments, witnesses said. *AP*

Hall's collapse turns Jerusalem wedding tragic

JERUSALEM—The five guests had stayed seated around a table in a corner to watch as the stomping, heart-throbbing dancing typical of Jewish weddings began to celebrate the marriage of Assi and Keren Sror.

Rescue workers yesterday found them—still near the table, a couple embracing one another—after they and at least 14 others plunged to their deaths when the three-story Versailles banquet hall caved in Thursday night.

More than 300 people—half of the Sror's invited guests—were taken to hospitals with injuries in what officials said was the worst disaster involving a civilian building in Israel's history. Officials stressed that terrorism was not to blame.

Hundreds of rescue workers, using their hands, bulldozers and cranes, dug through the rubble yesterday, searching for survivors.

Crews slowly made their way toward the table, their work hampered by a mangled ceiling that had fallen on the area. It appeared that the table and chairs had slid down the floor as it began to cave in, said Yehuda Meshi Zahav, head of the ultra-Orthodox volunteer unit. "A couple was hugging each other," he said, describing the scene.

Amir Lipski, 47, said he had remained seated at a banquet table to eat the first course that had just been served when the crowd gathered in a circle and began stomping their feet.

Guests then hoisted the father of the groom, Tsion Sror, on a chair and started dancing in the joyous staple of Jewish weddings.

"You could feel the beat on the floor," Lipski said yesterday from his hospital bed, adding that at first, he thought the tremor was an earthquake that would stop in a second.

"And suddenly I felt everything beginning to collapse. A hole formed underneath us and I began to free-fall. I felt objects hitting me and I felt like I was falling forever. As I fell, my wife and I hugged each other," he said. *AP*

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0087 Series of 2001

Pakistan accepts India's proposal of peace talks

ISLAMABAD—Pakistani religious parties yesterday welcomed India's offer of peace talks with Islamabad but urged New Delhi to stop "atrocities" in Kashmir to prove it was sincere in its desire for peace.

"We welcome India's talks offer but it should be meaningful, with the sole aim of implementing the United Nation resolutions on a referendum in Kashmir," the main fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami said.

"India should admit Kashmir is not its integral part and must end the ongoing atrocities on Kashmiris to prove its sincerity for peace in the region," party spokesperson Amirul Azeem said.

The Jamaat violently opposed the February 1999 summit between Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and then Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif in the eastern city of Lahore.

Its workers pelted stones at the cars of diplomats attending Sharif's banquet for Vajpayee in the historic Lahore forte.

A policeman was killed and several others were wounded in two days of violent protests during which police detained more than 2,000 Jamaat supporters.

The spokesperson said: "Our apprehensions in 1999 that the talks would focus on trade and culture and the Kashmir issue would be sidelined, proved correct."

He said the Jamaat was again skeptical over the latest peace offer from India, because "on the one hand they had ended the ceasefire, arrested a senior Kashmiri leader on his return from Pakistan, and on the other they have invited (military leader Pervez) Musharraf for talks."

India announced on Wednesday it was scrapping its six-month ceasefire against Islamic militant groups in its zone of disputed Kashmir where 35,000 people have died since 1989.

At the same time New Delhi invited Musharraf for peace talks "at his early convenience."

The same day Indian police arrested senior Kashmiri separatist leader Shaikh Abdul Aziz, only two days after he returned from a month-long private trip to Pakistan.

Pakistan said Musharraf would respond to Vajpayee's invitation in a "positive spirit."

Another fundamentalist party Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) also expressed surprise over India's directive to its armed forces to lift the cessation of combat operations in Kashmir. *AP*

MEANWHILE IN PRAGUE, THEY DANCE REUTERS

An unidentified Romany girl dances in downtown Prague May 24 in a parade of Romany bands from all over Europe, Russia, Turkey and Egypt to celebrate the third annual Khamoro Festival of Roma music and culture.

Blind, aged Americans scale Everest

KATMANDU, Nepal—Two American climbers overcame blindness and age to scale the world's tallest mountain yesterday.

Erik Weihenmeyer, 32, of Golden, Colo., became the first blind climber to summit Mount Everest, according to the Nepal ministry of tourism.

Shermann Bull, a 64-year-old physician from New Canaan, Conn., became the oldest climber ever to step onto the roof of the world, said the ministry, which oversees climbing in this Himalayan state.

"This is quite and amazing and extraordinary feat for a blind climber to reach the summit," said Ang Karma, a former official of the Nepal Mountaineering Association. "The majority of the people have difficulty even getting to the base camp, let alone the summit."

Weinhenmeyer reached the summit at about 10 a.m. with Eric Alexander, 31, of Vail, Colo., Luis Benitez, 28, of Boulder, Colo., and Jeff Evans, 31, of Denver.

Minutes before they reached the summit, Chris Morris, 33, from Wasilla, Alaska, with Bradford Bull, 33, of Denver, and his father Sherman Bull also reached the 8,850-meter peak with eight Nepalese Sherpa guides.

The climbers were part of the National Federation of Blind Allegro Everest Expedition.

Weihenmeyer, 32, lost his sight at age 13 due to retinoscheses and took up rock climbing at 16.

"Because Everest is so famous, that you read and hear so much about, I wanted to try it out," he had said before setting out for the mountain in April.

Unlike most climbers who depend on careful coordination between eyes, hands and feet to make their climb, Weihenmeyer follows the sounds of bell tied to the jackets of his climbing mates and Sherpa guides.

He has already climbed Mount McKinley in Alaska, Mount Aconcagua in Argentina and Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzinia.

Bull broke the record for the oldest Everest climber, first set by Georgian climber Lev Sarkisov, who reached the summit May 12, 1999, at 61, and again by Toshio Yamamoto last year, at 63.

The Everest climbing season, which kicked off March 1, had been plagued by bad weather. Not one climber had scaled the mountain until this week, when the weather cleared. *AP*

Human trafficking replacing slavery, says UN

GENEVA—Trafficking of humans is replacing slavery or bonded servitude as the most widespread form of forced labor, with the trafficking network touching almost every country in the world, the International Labor Organization said yesterday.

Most nations are either sending countries, transit countries or receiving countries—and many are all three at once, said the 128-page study, "Stopping Forced Labor."

The study, a follow-up to the UN agency's 1998 declaration on fundamental rights at work, said forced labor is universally condemned, yet it still flourishes across the world.

Ancient practices such as slavery and bonded labor still exist in some parts of the world, especially Africa and South Asia, but the fastest-growing form of forced labor is through trafficking, it said.

"The person may enter into an agreement with the recruiting agent on an apparently voluntary basis . . . but conditions at the destination point are likely to involve coercion, including physical restrictions on freedom of movement, abuse or violence, and fraud," it said.

"Victims frequently find themselves trapped in debt bondage and other slavery-like conditions."

Much trafficking involves women and girls who are destined for the sex trade.

Poverty, unemployment, civil disorder, political repression and gender and racial discrimination create an easy environment for traffickers to exploit vulnerable people, the study said.

Europe in particular "has seen an explosion of trafficking since the breakup of the former Soviet Union," and large-scale sweatshop activities involving clandestine migrants have been found in Europe and North America.

Main destinations are the large cities of Western Europe, Israel, Japan and the United States, the study said. Some 50,000 women and girls are believed to be trafficked to the United States every year for the sex trade or domestic work. The main entry points are New York and California, it said.

The report noted that outright slavery is still found in a handful of countries, and the wholesale abduction of communities is not uncommon in Liberia, Mauritania, Sierra Leone and Sudan.

Indigenous peoples are particularly at risk from coercive recruitment practices in Africa and Latin America.

The report pointed to Burma, or Myanmar, as the "prime instance of an extreme case of forced labor." The country is subject to International Labor Organization sanctions following revelations of widespread use of forced labor for infrastructure projects or by the military.

"The growth of forced labor worldwide is deeply disturbing. The emerging picture is one where slavery, oppression and exploitation of society's most vulnerable members have by no means been consigned to the past," said International Labor Organization director general Juan Somavia.

"In light of these findings, the entire world needs to re-examine its conscience and instigate action to abolish forced labor and the often terrible living and working conditions that accompany it," he said.

The study also highlighted questionable labor practices, such the use of prison labor by private companies. It said 30 US states have legalized the contracting-out of prison labor since 1990, and there are similar laws in Malaysia, Madagascar and Ivory Coast. *AP*

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Democrats wrest control of US senate from GOP

WASHINGTON—On a day of upheaval beneath the Capitol dome, Democrats snared control of the Senate on the strength of a party defection and pledged to temper President George W. Bush's agenda while advancing their own. "I can no longer" remain a Republican, said Sen. James Jeffords in a personal declaration of independence.

A moderate in a party of conservatives, Jeffords of Vermont state said he bluntly warned Bush earlier this week "I firmly believe he would be a one-term president" unless he agrees to more funding for education.

His decision to leave the Republican Party altered the political balance of power instantly. "We intend to govern" in a spirit of fairness, said Sen. Tom Daschle, the majority-leader-in-waiting and the nation's highest-ranking Democrat. "We can't dictate to them, nor can they dictate to us," he said of the Republicans.

Daschle quickly signaled a shift in priorities, though, telling his rank and file that after the Senate completes the president's bipartisan education legislation, the first Democratic piece of legislation will be a patients' bill of rights measure, long stalled in the Republican Senate.

"We will be acting and they will be reacting instead of the opposite," Sen. Charles Schumer, a Democrat from New York, said of the Republicans.

Bush, suddenly confronted with a Democratic-controlled Senate, said he respected Jeffords, but "couldn't disagree more," with his charge that the administration was too conservative.

"Jim was always a tough fit" in the party, said Sen. Mitch McConnell, a Republican. And Karl Rove, Bush's senior political strategist, sought to cast doubt on Jeffords' declaration that his defection was based on principled policy differences. "There is a lot of talk around town, about committee chairs and deals and bargains and pledges," he said on CNN.

The Republican leader, Sen. Trent Lott of Mississippi, said he expected no change in his party's leadership. But behind closed doors, a painful process of reckoning began for a party that held 55 seats as recently as last July, but now can claim only 49. Several GOP sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Senators Olympia Snowe of Maine, John McCain of Arizona and Pete Domenici of New Mexico all stressed a need for the party of conservatives to tolerate differing views.

"We've just been through an earthquake here," said Sen. Chuck Hagel. "What we're doing here is helping the survivors and pulling the wounded" to safety.

His days as majority leader dwindling, Lott began hustling several of Bush's nominations to confirmation, including the controversial choice of Ted Olson to become solicitor general.

But power already was flowing to the soft-spoken Daschle, 53 and six years the Democratic leader. Democratic aides said he wanted to let Olson come to a vote now rather than have a partisan floor fight in his party's early days in the majority.

Within hours of Jeffords' announcement, Daschle also telephoned Bush, with whom relations have been frosty. The president angered the senator earlier in the year when he went to South Dakota to campaign for his tax cut without notifying the senator first. *AP*

UK reports 100th case of human mad cow disease

LONDON—The human version of mad cow disease has reached a new milestone in Britain with confirmation of its 100th case, officials said, warning of more to come.

All but a handful of people with variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD), a fatal brain ailment, have died, according to figures from the government's department of health.

Scientists advising the government on vCJD warned Thursday that the disease could be gaining pace.

Earlier estimates of its spread had not forecast the number of cases reaching 100. Last year the total of confirmed and probable cases was 28.

So far this year the tally is 16, including the 100th case.

Variant CJD is a human version of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE, or mad cow disease). Although no cast-iron link has been proven, sufferers are thought to have contracted it by eating BSE-infected meat.

Professor Roy Anderson, a member of the government's advisory panel, said: "Last year was bad news and this year looks as if it's going to be higher than last year.

"It will be a long time before we have an idea of the scale of the epidemic. The bottom line is that the future is still uncertain.

"All I can say at the moment is that I doubt it's going to get better."

On May 4, when the last official figures were issued by the department of health, the number of definite and probable cases stood at 99. A total of six people were still alive.

"There have now been 100 cases," Professor Peter Smith, who heads the panel, told a news briefing Thursday. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Taliban slam 'propaganda'

KABUL, Afghanistan—Afghanistan's Taliban rulers on Thursday criticized world powers for what they called a "propaganda drive" against their controversial move of requiring Hindus to wear an identity label, saying the measure is aimed at protecting the minority. "It is unfortunate that some countries, for their selfish interests, are attacking" the Taliban for an Islamic edict to protect Hindus, said Taliban-run Radio Kabul, quoting a foreign ministry statement. The Taliban earlier this week decided to require Hindus to wear a yellow piece of cloth on their shirt pockets to distinguish them from Muslims. The move—reminiscent of a Nazi policy in the 1930s and 40s that required European Jews to wear yellow Stars of David—has been harshly criticized by several countries including the United States, Russia, Germany and Hindu-dominated India. *AP*

McVeigh dies June 11

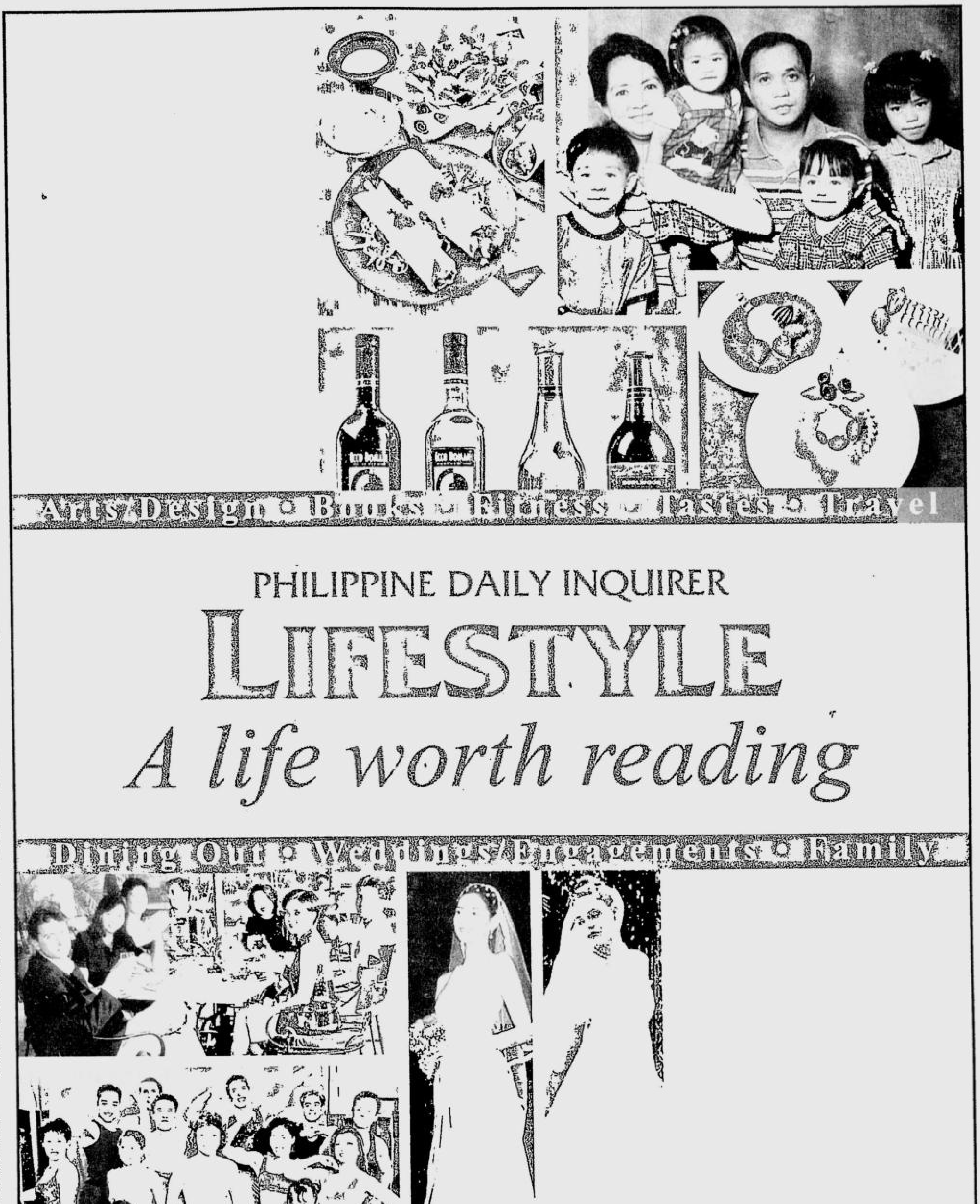
WASHINGTON—US Attorney General John Ashcroft said Thursday he would authorize no further delays of the execution of convicted Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh now set for June 11. "No document creates any doubt of McVeigh's guilt, let alone establishes his innocence, which is the legal standard an appeal must overcome," Ashcroft said. At a press conference here, Ashcroft said the nearly 900 pages of documents that had been turned over to McVeigh's attorneys on Thursday did not in any way call his guilt into question. "Most of the documents could not have qualified as evidence," he said. *AFP*

Macedonia refugees

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia—Some 1,500 ethnic Albanians from the northern Macedonian village of Lojane, under fire from the Macedonian Army Thursday, fled overnight to southern Serbia, the UN refugee agency UNHCR said early yesterday. Spokesperson Astrid van Genderen Stort said the refugees, mostly women and children, had arrived in the ethnic Albanian village of Miratovce on the Macedonian border. Macedonian forces went on the offensive Thursday to force ethnic Albanian guerrillas out of the Kumanovo region in the north of the country. The UNHCR spokesperson said Lojane was still being bombarded after midnight. Since the start of the Army's campaign against ethnic Albanian villages held by the guerrillas on May 3 some 10,000 people have fled the region, most of them going to Kosovo. *AFP*

Japan, China quakes

TOKYO—A powerful earthquake measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale was recorded in the Pacific Ocean off Japan's northern island of Hokkaido yesterday, Japan's Meteorological Agency said. The intensity of the quake was put at 7.0 on the Richter scale by China's earthquake monitoring network, according to the country's state Xinhua news agency. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. In Beijing, the death toll from an earthquake in southwestern China measuring 5.8 on the Ricter Scale has risen to two, with 605 injured, local officials said yesterday. The earthquake struck border areas between Sichuan and Yunnan provinces early Thursday with the epicenter in the Ninglang Yi Autonomous County, killing thousands of animals and causing damage so far estimated at $36 million, the officials said. *AFP*



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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

NBI agents charged

BATANGAS CITY—Police filed criminal charges against two National Bureau of Investigation agents who shot dead a Manila policeman and took his service pistol inside a bus bound for this city on Tuesday. Charged with robbery with homicide were Christopher Latayan, 37, of Malvar, Batangas, and his companion tagged as John Doe, according to SPO3 Nelio Lopez of the city police investigation division. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Hot lumber seized

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna--The Department of Environment and Natural Resources seized a big volume of illegally cut lumber along the Marcos Highway in Sta. Maria, Laguna. The haul, however, cost the life of a DENR official and serious injuries to five foresters. Their Mitsubishi Canter, with foresters and the load of confiscated logs on board, collided with a Toyota Hi-Lux pick-up along the Mabitac Highway. Killed was Ruel Bautista, a community development officer. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Double good luck

LEGAZPI CITY—Good luck poured anew on a 64-year-old woman who won a P43-million lotto jackpot last year when she narrowly escaped a grenade attack on her house in Sitio Pulot, Barangay Taysan here. Senior Insp. Rolando Esguerra, city deputy chief for operations, said the fragmentation grenade of World War II-vintage exploded and heavily damaged a new Nissan Frontier van and Toyota Land Cruiser, and a jeep. *Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Fund release hailed

LUCENA CITY—Senatorial candidate Wigberto "Bobby" Tañada of the People Power Coalition hailed the government's recent decision to release P278 million to enhance the productivity of the sugar industry. Tañada said the fund release would benefit consumers in the form of lower prices for sugar and for products using sugar as an ingredient. He noted that the industry "did not receive a single centavo under the Estrada administration." *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern and Western Luzon, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 32° Lo 24°	Baguio HI 23° Lo 16°	Tuguegarao HI 31° Lo 23°
Laoag HI 30° Lo 24°	Clark Zone HI 33° Lo 23°	Tagaytay HI 29° Lo 21°
Legazpi HI 32° Lo 26°	Bacolod HI 33° Lo 25°	Roxas HI 33° Lo 25°
Cebu HI 34° Lo 25°	Tacloban HI 31° Lo 25°	Gen. Santos HI 32° Lo 25°
Zamboanga HI 32° Lo 25°	Cagayan de Oro HI 32° Lo 23°	Davao HI 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

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COAST Guard divers recover an ancient jar from the sunken shipwreck.

32 shipwreck looters charged

By CESAR VILLA
AND TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

STA. CRUZ, Zambales—Thirty-two suspected raiders of artifacts from a 500-year-old shipwreck in waters between Hermana Mayor and Hermana Minor islands off this coastal town were charged Friday with violation of Presidential Decree 374, also known as cultural properties, prevention and protection act.

All the suspected looters were divers from Masinloc and Sta. Cruz towns, according to Supt. Artemio Gabriel, Zambales police director.

Police and Coast Guard personnel seized eight precious artifacts from the suspects during a raid in the area on Monday and Wednesday

Gabriel said two divers drowned during the raid. One of them was identified as Michael de los Reyes from Cavite.

He said two more persons were arrested Thursday night. A hundred pieces of artifacts were seized from them.

Albert Dealico and Restituto Velasco, both of Iba town, were on board a Corolla car loaded with artifacts believed to date back to the Ming Dynasty, when they were intercepted at a police checkpoint here.

Gov. Vicente Magsaysay asked the provincial board to look into the incident after receiving reports that artifacts worth P4 million had been traded to businessmen in Baguio City.

In Camp Olivas, Pampanga, regional police officials had placed the Zambales police on full alert and ordered them to maintain checkpoints in 13 towns and to obtain court orders to search homes.

Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Central Luzon police chief, issued the orders after Zambales, especially Sta. Cruz town, where a government-hired firm found the shipwreck, has turned into a flea market of relics.

"Everywhere we can find the relics," Galang said of the targets of the search warrants.

The antique wares are being spirited out of the province.

Gabriel on Friday turned over 122 pieces of artifacts seized on Thursday from two Quezon City-based buyers in Masinloc town.

Albert Mojica, one of the suspects, said he bought the goods from fishermen in Sta. Cruz.

"The place is like a flea market. I just stood in one of the *sari-sari* stores. They (fishermen) approached me, showed me the wares and they bargained with me fast," he said in Filipino.

Galang said Mojica, who admitted spending P180,000 on the antique items, was a supplier of a dealer who has yet to be identified.

Mojica denied buying the relics from members of the Coast Guard.

Efren Flores, chief of the National Museum cultural properties department, said the investigation he led on May 16 and 17 showed that Coast Guard personnel assigned to protect the archeological site were behind the looting.

Flores said museum personnel recovered at least 94 pieces from Coast Guard members.

But Galang defended the Coast Guard, saying its members helped the police recover millions worth of artifacts from suspected poachers.

At least 17 people have been arrested while four motorized bancas, as well as diving gear, have been seized in the joint operations of the police and the PCG, Galang said in a statement here.

On May 21, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez and PCG chief, Rear Admiral Reuben Lista, to help the museum personnel in securing and protecting the shipwreck and objects found there.

PD 374 allows the summary confiscation of illegally obtained artifacts of national importance. Illegal poachers and buyers of these artifacts face up to two years of imprisonment and a fine of P10,000. *With a report from Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Negros gov slams Lakas leaders for 'sellout'

By CARLA GOMEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Before the dust of the May 14 elections could settle, cracks in the pro-administration's People Power Coalition widened amid charges that the local Lakas-NUCD sold itself out to the opposition led by business tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco.

Negros Occidental Gov. Rafael Coscolluela, chair of the PPC-allied Aton Tamdon Utod Negrosanon (Atun), claimed that Lakas provincial leaders funded some of the candidates who ran under Cojuangco's United Negros Alliance (Una).

Coscolluela said the Atun-PPC in Negros would be filing a complaint with President Macapagal-Arroyo, the titular head of Lakas-NUCD, regarding the "disloyalty" of Lakas representatives in Negros Occidental.

Ignacio Arroyo, brother of the President's husband Mike Arroyo and chair of the Lakas in Western Visayas, denied the charges.

Although several Lakas members ran under the Una, he said, the Lakas-NUCD funded only candidates who ran under the Atun-PPC.

"We cannot help it if the (Atun-PPC) candidates were weak," Arroyo added.

Cojuangco belied the charges and accused Coscolluela of "hallucinating."

Coscolluela's complaint came amid the debacle of Atun-PPC in the hands of Una candidates.

The governor said he found it "strange" that while the Atun-PPC candidates lost, the PPC senatorial candidates won in Negros Occidental. He indicated that some "arrangements" had been reached between the Lakas-NUCD and the Cojuangco camp.

Una candidates won in the gubernatorial race and five of the six congressional districts in the province. Among the Lakas candidates who won under Una was Vice Governor-elect Isidro Zayco, running mate of Governor-elect Joseph Marañon.

The Marañon-Zayco tandem won by a large margin over Atun's Romeo Gamboa and Gregorio Yulo.

TWIN DISASTERS

Pilot, 3 passengers hurt in Mactan plane crash

By JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A pilot and three passengers were injured when a four-seat Cessna-182 plane, reportedly owned by Sen. John Osmeña, crashed in Lapulapu City, Mactan Island, yesterday afternoon.

The four were identified as Ian Anthony Nacillas, the pilot, and passengers Pablo Abadilla, Rey Gallo and Warren Cortes.

They were brought to the Mactan Community Hospital. Their condition could not be known immediately as reporters were barred from entering the hospital.

The plane, with registration No. RPCIA 1195, belongs to Pamplona Plantation Co. Inc., a leisure estate firm owned by Osmeña in Pamplona, Negros Oriental.

Ahmed Cuizon, public affairs officer of the Mactan Cebu International Airport Authority, said the plane was on a test flight to Talibon, Bohol.

He said the Air Transportation Office in Mactan received a distress signal from the pilot about 2:26 p.m., a few minutes after the plane took off from Mactan airport.

The plane crashed in a vacant lot inside the Cebu Light Park, an export processing zone situated a few hundred meters from the southern end of the airport runway.

Godofredo Villacorte, a security guard of the export zone, told radio station dyLA that the engine of the plane suddenly stopped shortly before it crashed.

Family escapes unhurt before plane explodes

ILAGAN, Isabela—Engine trouble is being eyed in the crash and burning of a six-seat Cessna plane which landed on an airstrip in Maconacon town, some 80 kilometers from here, Thursday.

The pilot and five passengers, including an 8-month-old baby, of the single-engine Cessna, escaped unhurt when they hastily left the plane before it exploded.

Capt. Arnold Quiaoit, the pilot, radioed the Maconacon control tower that it was making an emergency landing after noticing that the engine had malfunctioned and was on fire.

The plane, owned by Cyclone Airways, took off from Maconacon at 7:30 a.m. Thursday for a 45-minute travel to Cauayan City. Just as the plane was 10 minutes airborne, the pilot noticed smoke emitting from the engine.

Aside from Quiaoit, on board were Dr. Lawrence Caramat, Divilacan municipal health officer, his wife Mitchie and their children Cynthia, Levi and Trisha.

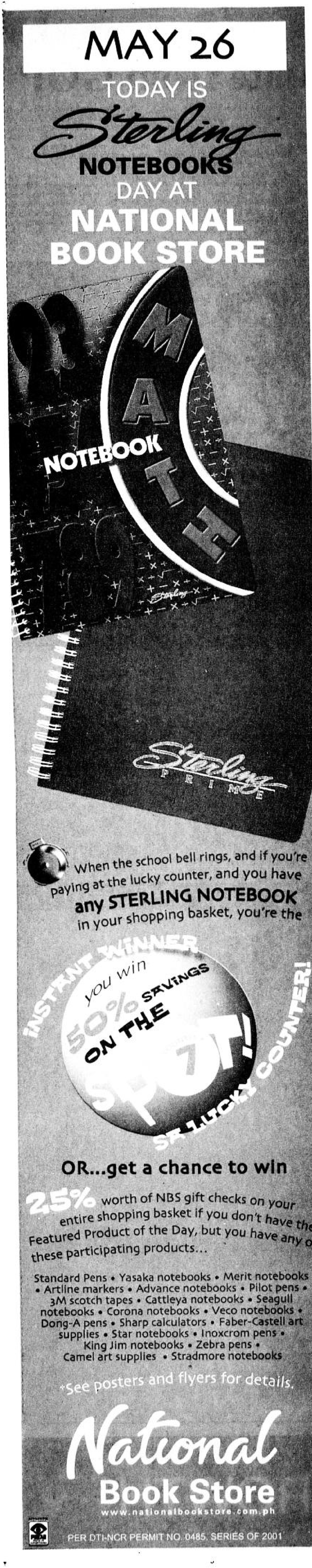
Minutes after it landed, the plane was engulfed by flames and exploded.

A team from the Air Transportation Office in Manila went to Maconacon on Friday to investigate the incident.

Maconacon, Palanan and Divilacan are among the coastal towns in eastern Isabela isolated by the Sierra Madre mountain ranges from other towns in the province.

These towns can be reached through small commercial planes regularly plying the area.

In May last year, a small plane crashed in the mountains between Tumauini and Ilagan towns. In December 1999, an Asian Spirit plane crashed in Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya, killing 17 people. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 0485, SERIES OF 2001

Teachers get poll pay amid fraud rap

BAGUIO CITY—While acknowledging that election fraud allegations have clouded their performance on election day, 1,242 public schoolteachers trooped to the Commission on Elections office here Friday to claim their poll duty allowances.

Several of them lamented the charges, saying their students could hurl these issues against them when schools open next month.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. cited Baguio as among the areas with high incidence of poll-related frauds when he launched his nationwide investigation of "*dagdag-bawas*" here.

Pimentel relied on reports from the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), as well as from an alternative poll watchdog attached to the Catholic Church.

The groups have accused Comelec of "ignoring irregularities (that) affect close to 6,000 to 8,000 votes, all significant enough to dramatically alter election results in Baguio."

They noted reports of disenfranchisement of at least 1,500 voters.

A whole barangay was virtually delisted by the Comelec on May 14, affecting 365 voters, according to the People's Watch, a Church-backed group monitoring poll-related frauds.

"What will we tell our students when schools open next week? Do we defend ourselves when they ask us if we committed fraud? Of course, we did not, but we are about to be blamed for it," an elementary schoolteacher said.

Most teachers interviewed by the INQUIRER indicated that fraud could have been possible only because of the "inefficient system" of the Comelec in retrieving ballots from the precincts.

"I don't think cheating occurred in the (Baguio) precincts. We have the board of election inspectors (all made up of teachers) and Namfrel and all the political watchers. It could not happen, so maybe (it occurred) during the transport (of ballots) or somewhere else. It would be impossible if all watchers connived. We don't want the Baguio teachers' integrity to be at stake. Maybe the traditional politicians should have something to say about that," one teacher said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

2 charged with killing of planter

BACOLOD CITY—Police filed charges against two brothers for the murder of prominent sugar planter Manuel Regalado in Manapla, Negros Occidental, on May 17.

Gerry and Joemarie Padronio, both workers at the sugar plantation owned by Regalado, were arrested Wednesday at their house in Hacienda Marianne, Barangay San Pablo, Manapla, 44 kilometers north of this City.

The suspects denied the charges, saying they were in their houses when the killing took place.

Regalado, 53, died from multiple bullet wounds in a gangland-style execution carried out by two hooded men outside his house in San Pablo.

Police said the assailants, armed with M-16 rifles, forced Regalado, 53, to kneel before they shot him with his son, Auxilliador, and several farm workers watched a few feet away.

Chief Insp. Melchor Coronel, chief of the newly formed Task Force Regalado, said the Padronio brothers were identified by Auxilliador as the gunmen. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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P100,000	P51,684	P35,805	P28,583	P20,567	P16,613	P15,069

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Model: **Lancer GLX M/T**
SRP: **P615,000**

TERM	12	18	24	36	48	60
Downpayment	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
P100,000	P45,086	P31,234	P24,934	P17,942	P14,492	P13,146

Model: **L300FB - Dual Aircon**
SRP: **P542,000**

TERM	12	18	24	36	48	60
Downpayment	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
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The Day of the 'Giant Slayers'

AT FIRST they were taken lightly by their politically well-entrenched opponents, but they eventually made it to the top of local politics.

FEUDING Cebu City Mayor Alvin Garcia and former Mayor Tomas Osmeña still manage to smile at each other when they met Wednesday night during the tension-filled start of the canvassing of the tightly-contested mayoral race. With Tomas is his older sister, New York-based socialite Minnie Osmeña, who came to Cebu to campaign for her brother.

JUNJIE MENDOZA

Ted Failon seems to be one of the "giant slayers" among the new faces in the Visayas politics, having won against incumbent Rep. Alfred Romualdez in Leyte's first district.

Failon was proclaimed winner by the Leyte election board of canvassers at 1:30 a.m. yesterday, with a margin of 5,000 voters over Romualdez, a scion of the clan once described as "indestructible" in Leyte.

Official count showed Failon garnering 56,541 votes and Romualdez, 51,308.

In Samar, the "giant slayer" in local politics turned out to be a woman, Milagros Tan (Partido ng Masang Pilipino), a plain homemaker before 1995 when she won a seat in the provincial board. She was reelected to the same position in 1998.

Today, she is the governor-elect of Samar.

When she ran for governor, few people thought she could win against reelectionist Gov. Jose Roño, who dominated Samar politics since the 1970s.

In Eastern Samar, the gubernatorial race was supposed to be a "grudge fight" between incumbent Gov. Ruperto Ambil Jr. (LDP) and former Rep. Jose Tan Ramirez (Lakas). They fought tooth and nail in the 1998 elections, with Ambil emerging victorious.

But in this year's polls, the NPC put up its own lineup in the provincial slate, with retired municipal trial court Judge Clotilde Salazar as standard bearer. She turned out to be the dark horse in the gubernatorial race.

The tally of the provincial board of canvassers, taken form 21 out of 23 towns in Eastern Samar, showed Salazar with 41,229 votes; Ramirez, 39,608 votes; and Ambil, 33,257. The board still has to wait for the results from the two remaining towns.

Exception

The victories of Failon and Tan are more of an exception than a rule as results of the May 14 elections showed. While there are many new faces among the victors, they mostly come from old political clans in the Visayas.

A number of politicians won seats not because of their credentials but because of the formidable backing of political clans that have been the fixtures in local politics for decades.

In Iloilo City, the victory of two new faces in the 12-seat city council came as no surprise because they have old and familiar surnames: Mandrie Malabor, 27, the son of outgoing city mayor Mansueto Malabor; and Raul Gonzalez Jr., son of Rep. Raul Gonzalez, also in his late 20s.

Political clans were partly responsible for victories of candidates like Mayor-elect Jerry Treñas and Vice Mayor-elect Victor Facultad.

Treñas, dismissed as a poor third, surged to victory with the support of Malabor, Gonzalez and former Sen. Rodolfo Ganzon, among others. On the other hand, Facultad, who run under defeated mayoral candidate Guillermo dela Llana (LDP), was backed by Sen. Franklin Drilon.

In Iloilo province, reelectionists and traditional political clans also dominated the elections. Former Rep. Niel Tupas (LDP, fifth district) won in the gubernatorial race by a large margin over outgoing Vice Gov. Demy Sonza (Lakas).

Reelectionist Representatives Augusto Syjuco Jr. (LDP, second district), Narciso Monfort (Lakas, fourth district) and Rolex Suplico (Lakas, fifth district) trounced their opponents, while outgoing Gov. Arthur Defensor (Lakas) easily beat Licurgo Tirador (LDP) in the third district.

The Garin clan maintained dominance in the first district, with former Rep. Oscar Garin (NPC) winning over rival Jaime Torres. Garin's son, Oscar Jr. was reelected mayor of Guimbal town and his wife Jannete won as provincial board member.

The Garins won despite the fatal shooting of mayoral candidate Jesus Sibya Jr., allegedly by Garin's brother-in-law and San Joaquin mayor, Sebastian Serag, three days before the elections.

Garin's proclamation was, however, suspended by the Comelec following a petition for disqualification filed by Torres.

Torres accused Garin of "terroristic acts" committed by hired goons.

In Capiz, Liberal Party candidates backed by Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II captured all the top seats in the province: Vicente Bermejo for governor, Rodrigues Dadivas and Fredenil Castrol for the two congressional seats, and Roxas City Mayor Antonio del Rosario for another term.

History repeats

In Antique, history repeats itself in the Javier-Zaldivar victory.

The two clans dominated Antique politics until the 1970s when martial law was imposed and Congress was abolished. The Javiers and Zaldivars were starting to be a pain in the neck for budding dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Arturo Pacificador, a Marcos friend, took over the reigns of power in the province, culminating in the assassination of Gov. Evelio Javier on Feb. 11, 1986.

Pacificador, who is now jailed on charges of masterminding Javier's killing, ran for governor but miserably lost to Sally Zaldivar. Evelio's younger brother, Exequiel, was reelected governor.

In Negros Occidental, candidates backed by Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, another Marcos crony, practically took all the top seats in the province, through the United Negros Alliance that he backed.

Cojuangco himself is not a Negrense; his wife Gretchen is a scion of the Oppen clan, one of the landed gentry of Negros.

But it should also be said that the victors backed by the UNA all came from old political clans in the province: Julio Ledesma IV in the first district, Jose Carlos Lacson (third district) and Genero Alvarez (sixth district).

The Marañon brothers now hold two influential seats—Joseph as governor and Alfredo as representative of the second district. Eduardo's son, Charlie, was reelected in the 4th district. (Another Cojuangco son, Marcos, won the fifth district seat in Pangasinan.)

The lone survivor not identified with Cojuangco was Jose Apolinario Lozada, who won a second term in the fifth district. His initial foray into politics in 1998 came with the backing of then President Fidel Ramos. Lozada, a foreign service career officer, was Ramos' appointments secretary.

In Cebu, old political names still dominated the elections. The Osmeñas are all over on the frontline behind the winning candidates--Tomas leading in the race for Cebu City mayor; John Gregory winning in the vice gubernatorial race; and Sen. Sergio III taking the top slot among Cebuano voters in the senatorial race.

The Gullas clan keeps its grip in the first district: Eduardo, former House deputy speaker and outgoing district representative is now mayor of Talisay City, while his brother Jose is now the district representative.

The Abines clan got a beating in the second district, but the reelected congressman, Simeon Kintanar, also comes from a local political clan.

No one could still beat the Duranos in the 5th district. Joseph was reelected district representative unopposed, while his father, Ramonito, the former congressman, is Danao City mayor.

The Martinezes remain in power in the fourth district, with the reelection of Rep. Clavel Asas-Martinez.

Nerrisa Soon-Ruiz, a member of an old political clan in Mandaue City, won in the sixth district.

Business as usual

In Bohol, it is business as usual for at least eight prominent political clans. The new governor, Erico Aumentado, is a political veteran, while the three district representatives—Edgar Chatto, Eladio Jala and Roberto Cajes—are all scions of local political clans.

Rep. Ernesto Herrera may be faltering in his bid to return to the Senate but younger brother Julius Caesar and son Ernesto II have been proclaimed vice governor and Calape mayor, respectively.

Chatto's cousin Dominisio and mother Victoria were also reelected mayor and vice mayor of their native Balilihan. Edgar's brother-in-law, Jose Antonio Veloso, was elected Tagbilaran City councilor.

Dr. Amalia Reyes-Tirol was topnotcher in the second district provincial board derby, while sisters-in-law, Nuevas Tirol-Montes and Godofreda Olavides-Tirol, were reelected as city councilor and third district board member, respectively.

The Tirol sisters-in-law act is picking up from where the males left.

The Lims of Valencia managed to keep afloat. Mayor Pablo Lim was reelected convincingly, while younger sister Concepcion was reelected provincial board member. A brother, Renato, is the incumbent chair of the Association of Barangay Captains provincial federation, while a nephew by affinity, Valencia Vice Mayor Calixto Garcia, was reelected.

The Uys of Baclayon actually expanded their influence. Philippine Councilors League president Felix Uy, who sits as an ex-officio member in the provincial board, became a full-fledged board member in the first district. His brother, Benecio, was reelected mayor, while Uy's wife Marilyn was elected municipal councilor of Baclayon.

Also holding on to power are the Torralbas, Camachos and Labors in Tagbilaran, Getafe and Cortes. Mayor Jose Torralba was reelected to a third term. Theresa Camacho succeeds husband Cariso, who is serving his last term, just like Herminia who takes the place of husband Romeo.

In the tiny island-province of Siquijor, the Fuas continue to dominate. Former Rep. Orlando Fua Sr. wrested the gubernatorial seat from incumbent Gov. Arthur Marohan, while his eldest son Orlando Jr. won another term as representative of the lone congressional district.

The congressman's younger brother, Orville, was reelected mayor of Lazi, a town that abounds of historical and natural landmarks.

More of the same

In Negros Oriental, congressional seat winners—Jacinto Paras, Emilio Macias and Herminio Teves—are themselves old hands from well-entrenched clans.

In Dumaguete City, high-profile Mayor Antonio Remollo, who was hailed a fresh face when he was elected in 1998, suffered a stunning defeat from former three-term Mayor Agustin Perdices.

But there is a "giant slayer" in Dumaguete: The stunning victory of William Ablong, an environmentalist and virtual political unknown, over a scion of an old clan, Woodrow Maquiling, by a margin of just 240 votes.

In Biliran, the Espinas took the top positions. The only new face is Guido P. Raagas, also known in the entertainment circle as the controversial Jojo Veloso, who obtained the second highest number of votes in the second district where he ran for board member.

In Aklan, the Miraflores-Garcia family still dominated the political arena. The triumph is led by the reelection of Gov. Florencio T. Miraflores.

Miraflores' nephews, Pedro and Roberto Garcia Jr., were elected in runaway fashion: Pedro, the incumbent mayor of Ibajay town, was elected provincial board member; and Roberto Jr., an incumbent board member, was elected mayor of Ibajay, thus switching positions with his elder brother Pedro.

Miraflores was also mayor of Ibajay (1988 to 1995) until he was elected governor in 1995.

Heavily losing grip of political power in Aklan and in Makato town is the Legaspi political clan when two of the family scions lost to an upstart in the mayoral race in their hometown.

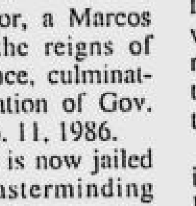
Ramon Legaspi Jr. and Bob Clyde Legaspi lost the mayoral position in Makato town on May 14 in a three-cornered fight that sent "giant slayer" Wayne Malilay to the municipal hall.

The Legaspis dominated the political landscape of Makato and Aklan province for almost half a century and Malilay's election to the Makato mayoral position virtually spelled demise of the Legaspi political clan.

The election of board member Gabrielle Calizo to Aklan's lone congressional seat was coupled with the reelection of his elder brother as mayor of Balete town; ***Vicente Labro, Diosa Labiste, Nestor Burgos Jr., Hazel Villa, Gerry Pagharion, Carla Gomez, Odon Bandiola, Romy Amarado, Joey Gabieta, Alex Pal and Chito Fuentes***

An election like no other

LUCID INTERVALS



Rowena V. Guanzon

NO idealist can win an election in this country except under extraordinary circumstances such as immediately after the Edsa Revolution.

In 1988, many non-traditional politicians ran and won because the former politicians under dictator Ferdinand Marcos were not in power during the election, and they had to rethink their strategies, played safe and regrouped. That's why in 1988, it didn't have to take a lot of money to win local and national elections. Then President Cory Aquino's moral leadership was so strong that its winds swept the entire country.

Not so this time. I have not "seen" so much money used to influence an election as in this recent one. I write "seen" because I have not seen the money, but my friends and people in the community tell me so.

They say that even some party-list groups bought votes. You and I know who has the money to do this kind of thing, which is why the Commission on Elections should really disqualify pseudo party-list groups to bar them from depriving genuine people's organizations of their seats in the House of Representatives.

What is distressing is that this seems to be the bitter pill one has to swallow if one wants to join electoral politics. Filipino voters can be bought.

And if one has no money to finance a political machinery, she or he can kiss her or his dream goodbye. If you ask any politician who lost you will arrive at the same answer: She didn't have enough money to win the election.

That is why many people who will make good local politicians stay away from politics. They do not want to steal so they can save up money to buy the votes in the next election.

It's a vicious cycle, a trap. And if many politicians want to stay in power that way, that is their choice. But the people do have a choice. Unfortunately, the lure of money is just too strong for voters to resist.

The poor see no difference in these candidates, which is how they justify accepting money in exchange for votes.

What is more alarming is that even the people seem to have accepted that if you don't have the money, you have no business being in politics. The poor themselves are saying the poor have no business being in politics. Which is to say that no poor man or woman, no matter how good or popular, will ever get elected unless he or she is backed by someone with money or, worse, with money of unquestionable origin.

This election is a preview of the next one, and you know what to expect in 2004.

If we are to change this terrible culture in our politics, it will take decades of educating our people.

But who is investing in this long-term goal? The Church may have helped but obviously it cannot do it alone. Non-government organizations do not have the resources for this.

The education department should help because this is partly the result of the failure in our educational system. If there is one person who can take a challenge like this seriously, its Secretary Raul Roco and I hope he does something about it.

* * *

IN CADIZ CITY, my hometown, the people are jubilant about the loss of incumbent "Eddie Boy" Varela and the victory of Salvador Escalante Jr.

Varela's own aunt and uncle ran against him in the previous elections, not because they wanted power for their own sake, but to save the city from corruption. They asked Varela to do something about the corruption in his administration but he did not. But Varela kept on winning because he was in power, (he was vice mayor in 1992 and then the mayor died) and many people thought he was "*mabuot*" ("*mabait*" or good).

They were willing to take all his faults and his lack of skill in administering the city because he was *mabuot*. Which is to say that the level of political awareness of the people at that time was low, and a mayor who went around playing the role of a good guy, soft-spoken and all, deceived a lot of people.

But not this time. Not after he fired 166 employees in the guise of reorganization, most of them from the City Health Office. After the City Health Office employees sued Varela for their benefits under the Magna Carta for Health Workers, he reorganized the city government and many of them were the first to go. The rest were supporters of the political opposition.

For more than two years, 166 families had to suffer. Many children stopped schooling. Many young girls married young. Three of the 166 died of illnesses. Many midwives had to sell fish and vegetables to be able to feed their families. Many had to sell their personal belongings, even their furniture, just to survive the weeks, months or day to day.

I have seen them suffer for years, several of them sick, many malnourished. I have not seen cruelty in this form and magnitude in my many years in Cadiz. If they have survived after two years, it is out of sheer endurance and their humility to do any work so their family would have food on their table.

But they cried, no, they wailed, each time their families are on the verge of hunger or death. They survived only with the hope that in the next election Varela will lose.

And he did. God has answered their prayers, they said, when I saw them in City Hall during the canvassing of votes. They were jubilant, but many were crying. But I could see the tiredness in their eyes. I wondered if they would have lasted another three years.

All the political families ganged up on Varela this time. Personal ambitions were set aside for the common goal of kicking him out of power. When he went campaigning house to house, doors slammed on him. Some spit on the ground as he walked.

Many politicians forget that they will not be in power forever. They forget that when they no longer sit at City Hall, they will have to walk the same streets where the people walk. There is nothing sweeter than having been mayor and still be respected by tricycle drivers, market vendors, employees and waiters.

Varela not only lost the election, he has gained the disrespect and hatred of people. And he has lost the regard of his family. Now he must spend all that he has—plenty of time—to regain his conscience.

Gloria allies vow to block power bill

(From page A1)

will launch several campaigns and enlist public support in opposing the power bill.

On May 30, they would lead a symbolic 10-minute nationwide power cut-off at 8:30 p.m. to protest the bill.

LDP meeting

After meeting with senators aligned with the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP), Sen. John Osmeña, the bill's principal sponsor, said the opposition senators had felt that the power bill should be "further studied."

"I don't agree with that because the implication was that I did not study it," Osmeña told reporters after the more than an hour LDP meeting.

Osmeña said Congress would be able to tie up the loose ends during the four-day session.

Osmeña met with Senators Blas Ople, Juan Ponce Enrile, Vicente Sotto III and Tessie Oreta. Joining them was Edgardo Angara, a senatorial candidate in the Magic 13, who wants a party stand on the power reform bill.

Osmeña said the senators, especially Enrile, expressed concern over the power purchase adjustment charges, which he stressed was not even taken up by the Senate committee working on the power bill.

Osmeña said he told the LDP senators that he had been meeting with Energy Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho in "ironing out certain inputs from the Executive Department." The senator said they had reached an agreement on certain "sticky" provisions.

These provisions include the recovery of "stranded cost" (the Napocor's remaining liabilities after its sale) and the retirement compensation for Napocor employees.

Half-baked legislation

In a news briefing, Enrile said the people should not be burdened with a "half-baked legislation." He cautioned the government against being dictated upon by the World Bank into rushing the measure's passage in exchange for a $900-million loan.

Angara disclosed that the meeting raised several questions such as whether the bill could reduce power rates by 30 to 50 percent and attract investments in power generating plants.

"Is there enough time to be able to discuss sensitive questions that would have impact on the people in the next five years?" Angara said.

He said it would be "wiser" to allow the next Congress to handle the power bill.

Ople, on the other hand, expressed concern that the Senate bicameral conference committee would not be able to come up with a report because Osmeña had lost two members—Senators Teofisto Guingona and Raul Roco.

Guingona has been appointed Vice President and Roco, education secretary.

Ople also noted that two other members—Senators Francisco Tatad and Ramon Revilla Sr.—were out of the country.

Osmeña acknowledged that there was a need for a reconstitution of the Senate bicameral conference committee but he said this could be done immediately.

He assured the public that the "sticky provisions" would be resolved before Monday to allow Congress to come up with a Senate-House reconciled version of the power bill by Tuesday night.

"We did our best. I think we cannot do better," Osmeña said. "I would like the Senate to approve the bill but of course that's their judgment call and not mine."

Sen. Loren Legarda vowed to scrutinize the power bill.

Legarda said that based on what she was seeing and hearing from the people the power bill and the new oil price increase were "not exactly in consonance with the pro-poor agenda of the Macapagal administration."

"I have asked my staff to restudy and reevaluate the merits and demerits of the power bill," she said.

Power outage scenario

Ople said that outgoing (soon-to-be finance secretary) Energy Secretary Camacho's warning that power outages would hound the country if Congress did not pass the bill was "reckless and irresponsible."

The government has several programs and projects in the energy sector, which are in various stages of implementation and thus will ensure an adequate supply of electricity for the country in the next several years, according to Ople.

The senator said there was no need for the Macapagal administration to "concoct the (power outage) scenario" to prod Congress into passing the measure.

"Congress is responsible and knows what to do with the bill," he said. "It should not use scary tactics in order to push for this legislation."

Ople also said he would insist that the power bill be subjected to "full debates" in both the Senate and the House.

The power bill's opponents claimed that the government's privatization plan for Napocor would result in higher electricity rates.

They claimed that private conglomerates, which will buy Napocor's assets, would pass on Napocor's billion-peso debts to the consumers.

The Freedom from Debt Coalition criticized the government for yielding to the "shameless greed" of Independent Power Producers (IPP) and private utilities, which are desperately seeking loans from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The NGO Forum on ADB said the power bill was a major component of the conditions being imposed by the ADB, the World Bank and the IMF on the country's power sector restructuring program.

The ADB approved a $300-million loan to the program in December 1998 and an additional $400 million co-financing was provided by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation under the Miyazawa Initiative.

"This power bill was tainted with allegations of bribery and corruption when it was hastily passed in the House of Representatives. This power bill has been unduly influenced at the executive and legislative departments by the ADB, WB and IMF, which have threatened to withhold loans if the Philippine government does not pass it," the NGO Forum said in a statement.

"The interests of these institutions should not prevail over the interest of the Filipinos, who will bear the consequences of the electricity industry restructuring," said Taka Nanri, representative of the NGO Forum on ADB, in a forum called by Sanlakas, FDC and other civil society groups.

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said that the Filipinos should not be made to suffer for the anomalies transactions entered into by the government and the IPPs.

She maintained that many of the contracts between Napocor and the IPPs were onerous and grossly disadvantageous to the government. She said the government had pledged to pay the IPPs in full even if consumption of electricity was lower than their energy supply.

With reports from Dona Pazzibugan, Irene Andrea C. Perez and Rosary Diane Baytion in Manila and Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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No VIP treatment for Erap–Gloria

(From page A1)

"She said (the house arrest) issue was discussed in the Cabinet and the primary reason was security. So it's still up in the air until the Sandiganbayan decides," Satur Ocampo, president of the party-list group Bayan Muna, told reporters.

Fr. Jose Dizon of the Catholic charismatic group Kairos Philippines said they told Ms Macapagal their position with respect to Estrada.

"He should undergo the normal processes of a person on trial. No special privileges should be given to him, especially house arrest," Dizon said.

He said they also asked why she was building a new detention facility for Estrada.

"And she said there's no change in the government position that he was arrested, detained, and will continue to be detained," Ocampo said.

According to Ocampo, only Cabinet members were supposed to be at the meeting but that the President insisted on attending upon learning about it.

She was accompanied by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, incoming Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and Presidential Management Staff chief Vicky Garchitorena. "We cannot say we're convinced. We're satisfied that the President explained (her side) and we are accepting her explanation. It was not a meeting of minds but an understanding," he said.

'Easy scare'

Senate President Pro Tempore Blas Ople told reporters that while Ms Macapagal "scares easily," she did right in stopping the construction of the planned jailhouse for Estrada "because she should not be preempting the Sandiganbayan on the matter."

He theorized that "threats from her leftist allies" could have forced her to "overrule herself."

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto praised Ms Macapagal for her decision, saying: "That is commendable because we have to wait for the action of the court. Any move that may preempt the action of the court is not wholesome."

Desierto told Agence France Presse that stopping the construction "would free the minds of the people on the position of the government in relation to an accused whose jurisdiction over him belongs to the court of law and not the presidency."

Desierto, who will lead the prosecution panel in Estrada's corruption trial next month, said he was not against putting him in a secured area "as long as it really is a detention center."

"We cannot set up a nice residency especially for one who is accused of plunder," he said.

Ople commended the President for "pursuing a national reconciliation policy, which is valid."

"But her leftist allies are not about to allow her to succeed in (that respect) because that is not their warm cup of tea. They are not pining for national stability," he pointed out.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. observed that Ms Macapagal was "under pressure from different points of view" but that she might now be studying her options.

Sen. Loren Legarda said it was a mistake for the President to air her personal position on Estrada's house arrest and to allow the construction of a new jailhouse for him.

"From Day One, Malacañang should have stayed out of it. It should have kept mum on the issue (so) the Sandiganbayan can issue its decision without any pressure from the statement of the President," Legarda said.

She said it was right for Ms Macapagal to stop the construction of the jailhouse.

Ople said the Sandigan should now decide whether to put Estrada on house arrest, "to stop the further exacerbation of the political atmosphere."

He said the delay was providing "irrational groups the pretext to inflame the controversy."

"The Sandiganbayan should not freeze the ball on the house arrest motion, simply out of being scared by public opinion," he added.

Dilemma

According to Satur Ocampo, the President admitted telling Estrada during her May 19 visit to him and to the pro-Estrada Iglesia ni Cristo that she had no objection to his house arrest.

All the time, he said, the President reiterated that it was just her personal opinion and that it was up to the Sandigan to decide.

"We told her that her statement had the wrong effect and gave rise to different interpretations and misunderstandings," he said.

Ocampo said the President disclosed her dilemma: "She expressed her determination (to prosecute Estrada) but at the same time she's concerned that there is still a sector of society that is in disagreement.

"She said she cannot ignore 'Edsa III' so she's conscious about how to satisfy, alleviate, the sentiments of those whose perception is that Erap is being persecuted," Ocampo said.

He also said Ms Macapagal talked about the problem of how to make the unorganized poor understand that Estrada was merely being subjected to due process of law.

In an interview with CNN, the President reiterated that she did not give Estrada special treatment.

"I haven't built him a mansion. Well, this is because he is confined in the hospital and it's a security risk to put him in the same building as everybody else. So we have to build an annex, and that certainly is not a mansion. It's nowhere like this, that's for sure," she said, referring to the Palace's main living room where she spoke with CNN Talk Asia host Dalion Tanonaka.

Critical position

Ocampo, Dizon and Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño did not say yes when asked if they were convinced and satisfied with the President's explanation on the issue of how to treat Estrada.

"Well, we didn't press her on that. We just gave our reactions to her statement, so we will leave it at that. We just registered our critical position to ensure that she will not give further concessions. Because if she will agree to house arrest, possibly Estrada's supporters would ask for more," Ocampo said.

Dizon said they assured Ms Macapagal that they wanted her to succeed, "but she must succeed for the interest of the people."

"She said the government was pursuing Estrada's prosecution, but it has to give concessions to his poor supporters. We told her she can respond to their plight through her pro-poor programs and not by winking her eye at Estrada each time she visits him," Casiño said.

The President said she would hold monthly dialogues with civil society and other groups who had complained that communication lines with her were blocked.

Ocampo said the meetings were aimed at averting misunderstanding over critical issues concerning the government's policies and actions.

Ms Macapagal's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said yesterday's dialogue was "very fruitful" and involved "a lot of frank discussions."

Tiglao also insisted that all the concessions given to Estrada were meant only to ensure his safety.

"We have equal treatment of the law, but the problem is the impact of an ordinary accused being assassinated or injured is very different from the impact when a deposed president is injured, assassinated or even brought to hospital on emergency," Tiglao said, adding:

"We're staying the middle course and we're not deviating from the principal issue here—that the deposed president, given his substantial number of followers, is still under arrest (and) his freedom has been restricted. There has been no compromise on that."

Retirement

At the Sandigan, the impending retirement of two division chairs has raised fears about a possible disruption in Estrada's coming trial.

Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy, chair of the third division, is set to retire on Oct. 19, 2002. His division will handle Estrada's trial for plunder, a crime punishable by death.

Associate Justice Narciso Nario, chair of the fourth division handling Estrada's perjury case, will retire even earlier: on Oct. 29.

Sandigan executive clerk of court Rosario Lorbes confirmed the justices' retirement dates, adding that two more justices were also set to retire soon.

Lorbes said Associate Justice Ricardo Ilarde (third division) would retire on Nov. 27, and Associate Justice Nicodemo Ferrer (fourth division), in 2002.

By tradition, the next senior justice replaces a division chair who retires. In Badoy's case, his replacement should be Associate Justice Catalino Castañeda.

But Castañeda will also retire earlier than Badoy, Lorbes said.

Insiders say that to prevent a disruption in the trial, it is possible that Associate Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro, an appointee of then President Fidel Ramos, will be named head of the third division.

Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag yesterday filed a motion to quash the information filed by the Office of the Ombudsman against his client for perjury.

Saguisag said the Civil Service Commission should be the proper party to file the perjury charge, which accuses Estrada of filing a false statement of assets and liabilities. ***With reports from Armand Nocum, Cathy C. Yamsuan, AFP***

WHALE shark frolics on Lingayen Gulf with "butanding" watcher in the background.

Lingayen Gulf hosts whale sharks

(From page A1)

play in the waters but nobody dared to go near them.

Another shed owner, Arsenio Caronongan, thought the giant fish could not be killer sharks. "If they were, they would have immediately attacked the people on the beach," he said.

"I asked someone to go near the whale sharks and to pat the big ones. The whale sharks seemed to like being touched and the people cheered. Others went to play with the fish. Others even climbed atop the big ones, holding on to their dorsal fins," Caronongan said.

But while people enjoyed frolicking with the sea giants, illegal fishermen tried to kill them.

They threw homemade explosives at the whale sharks. None of the whale sharks, however, was hurt.

By this time, shed owners alerted the maritime police about the fishermen out to kill the sharks.

Chief Insp. Mateo Casupang of the maritime police said they arrested four fishermen from San Fabian town who were found in possession of homemade explosives with blasting caps.

A fisherman was caught throwing a dynamite stick at the whale sharks.

The Maritime police turned over the four fishermen to San Fabian Mayor Romulo Magliba.

Penalty for violation

The government has banned the killing and sale of whale sharks to prevent their rapid depletion.

Under the law, violators will be fined not less than P500 and not more than P5,000 and/or imprisonment from six months to four years.

Their numbers have significantly declined because of their continued slaughter.

Westley Rosario, chief of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Dagupan City, confirmed that the sea giants were *butanding*, which regularly visit Donsol, Sorsogon where they have become a tourist attraction.

They are gray with big white spots.

Residents said this was the third time over the past seven months that *butanding* were spotted in the Lingayen Gulf. In November, two whale sharks arrived but stayed only for a few hours.

In February, seven whale sharks came and stayed for two days.

Rosario said *butanding* are gentle and playful sea giants. They are usually 18 to 35 feet long and could weigh 20 tons. They are known to take 30 years before reaching sexual maturity.

Incapable of biting and chewing, they feed on plankton, shrimps, small crabs and other small fishes.

Recto fighting to keep 13th slot

(From page A1)

ing candidates would be proclaimed ahead of the others but only if the number of votes in the COCs yet to be canvassed would be significant enough to affect the standings.

Romulo Makalintal, counsel for Recto, explained that the discrepancy was due to an error in the Lipa COC which was corrected only after copies of the COC had been given out to the political parties.

Makalintal said the 9,810 difference came from the statement of votes from five precincts, which were not reflected in the uncorrected COC for Lipa.

Rodriguez, however, said that the National Board of Canvassers (NBC) should determine whether the corrections on the Lipa COC were made as soon as the alleged errors were discovered.

"I don't know why everybody is afraid to open these documents," Rodriguez protested.

NBC to decide today

The NBC is set to rule today on Rodriguez's petition.

Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo, also head of the NBC, yesterday said the NBC would summon the chair of the board of canvassers for Lipa.

Rodriguez's protest that *"dagdag-bawas"* (vote padding and shaving) was committed in favor of Recto has put on hold the canvassing of the COCs from Zamboanga del Norte and Sultan Kudarat.

The delay in the arrival of results from 20 cities and provinces yesterday forced the Comelec to halt the senatorial count as early as 3:15 p.m. after having tabulated only seven COCs.

Eight candidates of the PPC and four from the PnM have remained in their respective positions in the Magic 13 in the last two days, except for Ejercito, who slid to 13th place after being overtaken by Gregorio Honasan.

Broadcaster Noli de Castro, an independent candidate endorsed by the PnM, continued to pull away with a four-million vote lead over second placer Juan Flavier of the PPC.

De Castro received almost twice as much votes as his colleague at ABS-CBN, former Press Secretary Ricardo "Dong" Puno, who was placing a poor 16th.

Still in third place was Sergio Osmeña III. He was followed by fellow PPC candidates Franklin Drilon, Joker Arroyo, Manuel Villar Jr., Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Francis Pangilinan. Edgardo Angara of the PnM managed to hang on to 9th place.

Panfilo Lacson of the PnM was still at No. 11, with only an 8,000-vote edge over Honasan.

The Comelec en banc, sitting as the NBC, yesterday canvassed COCs from Sorsogon, Quezon Province, Abra, Isabela, Southern Leyte, Sulu and Iloilo City.

Sorsogon voted 8-4-1 for the PPC but gave the No. 2 spot to Honasan, a native of the province. Reelectionist Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's close association with Honasan did not help him there, as he placed a poor 14th

Iloilo City junks Miriam

Voters in Iloilo City rooted for Drilon, a fellow Ilonggo, who was No. 1 but shut out Santiago, also a native of Iloilo, who placed 14th. Twelve of those in the Magic 13 in the city were from the PPC, with De Castro managing to sneak in at 10th.

Quezon gave a split vote for the PPC and PnM, 6-6-1. Ejercito and Angara were second and third placers, respectively. Wigberto Tañada, an incumbent congressman in the province, only placed fourth.

It was 7-6-1 for the PnM in Abra, where Honasan was No. 1. De Castro placed second, while five PnM bets occupied the third to seventh spots.

Sulu voted 7-6-1 for the PPC, but gave the biggest vote to former Sen. Santanina Rasul of the PnM. Two other PnM candidates, both women—Ejercito and Santiago—were in the Top Five. De Castro was second while Pangilinan placed 4th.

The PPC trounced the PnM in Southern Leyte, 10-2-1, where Osmeña was No. 1, followed by Villar and De Castro. Honasan and Enrile barely made it to the Magic 13 at 12th and 13th places, respectively.

Benipayo said the NBC was still waiting for the COCs from Manila, Quezon City, Caloocan City, Pateros-Taguig, Nueva Ecija, Guimaras, Cebu, Cebu City, Eastern Samar, Leyte, Zamboanga City, Cagayan de Oro City, Davao City, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Tawi-Tawi and Basilan.

Commissioner Borra revealed that the provincial canvassing in Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao was just starting after being delayed for almost a week by the volatile peace and order situation.

"Canvassing in these provinces normally takes four to seven days," Borra said. "We have to wait for their COCs."

Commissioner Mehol Sadain, in charge for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), has assured that the canvassing in the provincial level would be completed in three to four days.

Sadain said provincial canvassing in Maguindanao was set to begin yesterday while the canvassing in Lanao del Sur will start today. The ongoing canvassing for Marawi City, meanwhile, has been transferred to the 402nd Brigade camp in Lanao del Norte.

The Comelec had earlier said that national canvassing would be finished on May 31.

Special elections

But special elections are still being held in areas where a failure of elections had been declared due to violence and non-delivery of election materials.

The Comelec has scheduled special elections today in Matanog, Maguindanao; Pantar, Lanao del Norte; Barangay Cayontor in Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte, where police and military personnel will serve as election inspectors; two precincts in Barangay Bancalaan in Balabac, Palawan; and five precincts in four barangays in Marantao, Lanao del Sur.

On May 30, special elections will be held in eight barangays in Barira, Maguindanao; three barangays in Nunugan, Lanao del Norte; two precincts in Pio Duran, Albay; 11 precincts in San Fernando, Masbate; and four precincts in Pio Corpuz, Masbate.

No change in PPC score

Guillermo Luz, Namfrel secretary-general, said in a press briefing that he did not expect the 8-4-1 score to change.

Namfrel has not counted about seven million votes when it stopped its operations in Greenhills.

Luz said Namfrel was not able to achieve its goal of counting election returns from at least 80 percent of the precincts during its two-week quick count because of the slow canvassing in certain areas.

Namfrel will move to the RFM office in Mandaluyong City to continue the count for the party-list race.

He said results of the party-list count will just be sent through e-mail and posted on Namfrel's website at www.namfrel.org.

Luz said Namfrel decided to continue the count for the party-list for public interest.

In the case of the senatorial count, Luz said Namfrel would release one more tally on Monday to enable Namfrel to meet its target of covering 80 percent of the precincts.

But he said the remaining election returns only reflected a very small percentage and would not likely affect the 8-4-1 outcome of the quick count. ***With reports from Marionne Acabado, Mae Lorraine Rafols and Marie Carissa Ordinario***

Gloria says she dreamed of being taller

(From page A1)

her youth during a long interview aired Thursday.

She had been asked what she wished for when she was growing up.

She was conscious of her height during her younger years, she admitted.

"When I was young, yes. Now that I am here where I am, and maybe starting from 20 years ago, I had no more complex. Prior to that when I was younger yes," she said.

She's a good dancer and piano player and a big fan of Elvis Presley and the Beatles, President Macapagal further revealed to CNN Talk Asia host Dalton Tanonaka.

"That was my dancing age, I was 14 to 18, I was known as a good dancer," she said.

She said she also played the piano because "in the Philippines, every convent-bred girl studies piano."

The President said she was fond of watching movies on Sundays which she makes sure are spent with her family.

The latest movie she watched was "15 Minutes" starring Robert de Niro.

When asked what Filipino movie she had last seen, the President said she watched a lot of old Pinoy movies on television and whenever she is on the plane.

Palace memories

The President, wearing a sleeveless pink dress, reminisced about her teenage years as resident of Malacañang when her father Diosdado was president.

The Palace memories were part of the sidelights of the interview, where she was also asked about ousted President Joseph Estrada and his wife Loi's apparent victory in the senatorial race.

"Respect the will of the people," she replied to the question on the former first lady.

Only 14 when her father Diosdado became President, Ms Macapagal noted that the present Malacañang was much bigger than when her family lived there.

She said Macapagal's living room was much smaller then and that the Main Living Room, where she sat with the CNN, was just a garden during her father's term.

She noted that extensions were built during the 20-year Marcos regime.

Erap fan?

The President was asked if she was a fan of Joseph Estrada, the actor. She merely said she knew that he was a popular action star.

Ms Macapagal was interviewed behind a portrait of her late mother, Mrs. Evangeline Macaraeg-Macapagal whom she described as "very frugal and fiercely loyal to her children."

She said her father, the late president, was her guiding light who inspired her personal motto: "Do what's right, do what is best and God will take care of the rest."

Ms Macapagal, who was born in the year of the boar, said she considers former President Corazon Aquino, former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the late Israeli Premier Golda Meir as her political models.

Young karters draw crowd at Carmona

KARTING at the Carmona Circuit Philippines is drawing huge crowd not only because of its marquee stars like Pepon Marave, Philip Alvendia, Mike Potenciano, Richard Joson, Edgen Dy-Liacco and Jojo Silverio.

Since the 2001 Shell Super Kart Championship series opened two months back, observers have noticed a renewed interest in karting based on the heavy spectator turnout and the increasing number of participants in the different categories.

The CCP has been teeming with marketing people and corporate honchos eyeing the most promising karters who can best promote their products. Of late, sponsors have been throwing their support to the younger crop of drivers particularly those running in the junior KT and Kadet classes. The no-nonsense driving of the little speed demons has given rise to exciting fiercely fought battles and new rivalries.

In the Kadet 85 class, 12-year-old Tyson Sy is on top of the points roster with 131 points. The Bumbarner siblings Mark and Michelle are within striking distance with 118 and 99 points respectively.

Must-win

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

FOR the regular-season titlist San Antonio Spurs, down 2-0 after dropping the first two games of the Western final series against the defending NBA champion LA Lakers at home, there's no tomorrow.

The Spurs face a must-win situation in today's Game Three at the Staples Center in LA where the Lakers are 4-0 in the playoffs, if they hope to turn around the series.

No NBA team has ever captured a best-of-seven series after digging an 0-3 hole.

As things now stand, San Antonio already is in a huge fix. Only two teams in league history have rallied to win a best-of-seven after losing the first two game sat home (the 1969 LA Lakers and 1994 Houston Rockets). Moreover, the Spurs are 0-17 in playoff series when they lose the opener.

To beat the Lakers, who are an unblemished 9-0 overall in the postseason, coach Gregg Popovich's charges need to find a way to stop Kobe Bryant and improve their outside shooting. The return to action of injured guard Derek Anderson, perhaps as early as Game Three, should be a significant boost to the Spurs, who must at least win two of three game sin LA in order to force a Game Seven and regain homecourt advantage.

The 6-5 Anderson's athleticism and quickness, if he's fully recovered from a separated right shoulder, could pose problems for the 6-7 Bryant, who got away with 45 an 28 points in the twin Laker victories against Antonio Daniels, Sean Elliott and even little-used Steve Kerr.

PEÑALOSA FIGHT

Salud offers champ ₱7.5M

GERRY Peñalosa's opponent from Japan wants the fight held in September in Tokyo.

This was learned yesterday from lawyer Rudy Salud, Peñalosa's manager.

WBC flyweight champion Masamori Tokuyama offered Peñalosa $40,000 for the title fight, an amount considered by Salud too small.

The offer included three round-trip tickets to Peñalosa's camp, with Tokuyama receiving the champion's purse of $120,000.

Salud has countered $50,000 for Peñalosa and $150,000 to Tokuyama, with the fight to be held here on Aug. 18 or early September.

It was learned that Tokuyama had withdrawn his two-month request to rest a bruised hand he had absorbed when he knocked out In Joo Cho of Korea last week.

Salud said he would give Tokuyama's camp five tickets and hotel accommodation and television rights. He said he would approve of a Sept. 2 fight in Manila.

Said Salud: "Our country has just undergone two tumultuous political events and we are now in the healing process. Our leaders both in government and business share the belief that a world boxing championship will fast-track the objective and project a positive image to the outside world."

PEÑALOSA

Jins compete in Vietnam World Cup

THE PETRON national taekwondo team, bannered by Sydney Olympians Roberto Cruz, Donald Geisler, Eva Marie Ditan and Jasmin Strachan, will compete in the World Cup championship set May 28-June 4 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

According to Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado, 12 other jins—six men and six women—and five officials compete the RP squad.

The other jins are Tshomlee Go, Jeferthom Go, Alexander Briones, Mark Anthony Rivero, Dindo Simpao, Dax Alberto Morfe, Daleen Cordero, Kalindi Tamayo, Veronica Domingo, Camela Albino, Margarita Bonifacio and Sally Solis.

The officials are PTA vice president Sung Chon Hong, delegation head; Manolo Gabriel, team manager; Victor Emmanuel Veneracion, men's coach; Jesus Morales III, women's coach; and Ricky Santiago, international referee.

Allen sparks Bucks win

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania—Ray Allen scored 38 points and played tough defense on Allen Iverson as Milwaukee beat Philadelphia 92-78 to level their National Basketball Association semi-final series.

Glenn Robinson added 16 points while Sam Cassell contributed 14 points and 11 assists here Thursday for the Bucks, who equalized the best-of-seven Eastern Conference final at one triumph each.

"I would like to think we sent a message," Allen said. "We had a great time out there, playing hard and playing together."

Games three and four are in Milwaukee on Saturday and Monday with game five here Wednesday. *AFP*

Int'l derby starts May 29

THE MUCH-AWAITED slambang showdown between local and international cockfighting stars finally unfolds on May 29, 31 and June 2, with the "Mandaluyong Coliseum 9-Cock International Derby."

Sponsor is Pagcor-Casino Filipino while derby hosts are Vic Yu and Sonny Lagon.

Paying patrons are advised to keep their ticket stubs. They may exchange these stubs for free casino Filipino chips equivalent to the ticket price at all Pagcor-casino Filipino outlets.

Twelve to 15 entries will be fielded by Americans Richard Wilburn, Jerry Douglas, Bobby Jones (Texas), Buddy Mann (Alabama) and Chuck berry (Oklahoma)

Roligon 4-cocker

SUBMISSION of entries is in full swing in today's CMS 4-cock derby at Roligon Mega cockpit to be hosted by Carding Ng under the new Roligon management of Danny "Showdown" Ty.

Submission of weights (1.8 to 2.4 kgs.) is from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. today.

For reservation and inquires, call 833-2275 or 833-1638.

RACING TIPS

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Race 4—1. Lord of All 2. Brazen Truth 3. Kitana 4. Hurry Prince 5. Might and Power

Race 5—1. Ableskiver 2. Typhoon Belle 3. Kitty Bang Bang

Race 6—1. Dear Elane 2. Perfect Storm 3. Alabang Boy 4. Dancin' Indy

Race 7—1. Hinobaan's Pride 2. Hingis 3. Katya 4. Snub Nose

Race 8—1. El Condor 2. Golden Disc 3. Decathlete

Race 9—1. Timeless Beauty 2. Diligence 3. Terminal Bound 4. Thunder Fire

Race 10—1. Bull Strike 2. Corporate Law 2. Imperial Passion

Race 11—1. True to Life/Key to Heaven 2. Pro Bono 3. Turbo Carera 4. Sir Olizon

Race 12—1. Free Entrance 2. Profitable 3. Cyberspace 4. Expose

Race 13—1. College Gem 2. Dragon Strike 3. Top Quest 4. Belle D Amour

Robinson hosts Mini 4WD leg

THE SECOND leg of the Tom's Sports Mini 4WD Challenge will be held today at the Orosa Atrium of Robinson's Place, Manila.

Organized by actor-sportsman Jomari Yllana through Tom's Sports International Corp. and presented by Robinson's Place Manila, Bench, Joey 92.3, KCFM 93.9, Chowking and Yamaha, the event is expected to attract top mini 4WD enthusiasts.

First-leg winner Joseph Baritua will lead the list of participants.

"We are inviting all mini 4WD enthusiasts to participate in this prestigious competition which ends Aug. 11," said Tom's Sports event director Renzelle Mae Abasolo.

Abasolo said the overall series champion will bring home a cash prize of P20,000 or a scooter. The participant, however, must participate in at least five legs to qualify for the top plum. For details, call Tom's Sports at tel. 535-0455 to 56 or e-mail at tomsports@skyinet.net.

SPORTSWATCH

Mora shocks Abadia

FOURTH seed Michael Mora III ousted top seed Adelo Abadia, 6-2, 6-4, yesterday to reach the men's singles semifinals of the P120,000 TMS Shipping Agency National Open Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. The 23-year-old Mora of UP Diliman banked on his all-around game to beat Abadia for the second time since the Milo-Manila Open last year. "Mixed shots ang ginawa ko para hind malaman ni Adelo kung ano ang game plan ko," said Mora, who will face No. 6 Joseph Victorino at 9:30 a.m. today.

De Guzman rules Penn

TOP seed Ian de Guzman won the boys' 18-under title over No. 4 Janjie Soquino, 6-4, 3-2 (ret.), yesterday in the Head-Penn Age Group Tennis Championships in Cagayan de Oro City. Soquino got a consolation when he bagged the 16-under crown over Carlo Estrella, 7-5, 6-0. In other results, No. 3 Jordan Cimafranca outplayed Mikhail Don Patria, 7-6 (4), 6-3, to clinch the boys' 14-under title while Francis Alcantara won the boys' 12-under title over Lean Carlo Saavedra, 7-5, 6-0, and later collected the unisex 10-under over Bambi Zoleta, 7-6 (5), 6-3.

RP boxers go for golds

DARWIN N.T., Australia—The Philippines stayed on track for a Top 10 finish in the 2001 Arafura Games here with 5 golds in sight—two of which are already in the bag. Six Filipino pugs go for the gold medal in four interesting finals featuring two all-Filipino bouts while Bernardine Aurell Sepulveda takes a crack in the girls singles gold against top seed Sarah Andrews of the Northern Territory in lawn tennis on Friday.

Lim sinks ace at Orchard

LAWYER Alfredo C. Lim scored a hole-in-one on No. 11 of the Player course recently at the Orchard Golf and Country Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite. He was in a foursome with Mel Malabanan, Cesar Seguban and Jimmy Yang, who were teammates when they won the grand finals of the 3rd Mizuno Classic at Evercrest.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Action at 8:30 a.m. (r – 8:30 p.m.) on ESPN

NBA Conference Finals – Spurs vs Lakers, Game 3 at 9 a.m. (r – 9 p.m.) and Sixers vs Bucks, Game 3 tomorrow at 5:30 a.m. on ESPN

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Tigers, Stags stop rivals

UST'S Tigers and San Sebastian's Stags scored contrasting victories yesterday to create a three-way tie for the Group A lead in the 7th Fr. Martin Cup invitational basketball tournament at the FEU gym. The Tigers banked on Cyrus Baguio's undergoal stab in the closing seconds to nip the Mapua Cardinals, 57-56, while the Stags crushed the Letran Knights, 71-50. In other games, TIP toppled Angelicum, 65-58, while PCU Taft shocked reigning NCAA champion College of St. Benilde, 67-59.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

Mendoza keeps 1-point lead

WOMAN International Master Beverly Mendoza cemented her one-point lead over the U-20 girls field by agreeing to a truce with fellow Olympian Christine Grace Espallardo in the penultimate round of the 2001 National Age Group Chess Championships in Mandaluyong City yesterday. Mendoza, who has 6.5 points, halved the point with Espallardo after 17 moves of a King's Indian Attack to be in striking distance of the national title and the P4,000 top purse.

Welcoat wants to regain pride vs Shark

BY DENNIS U. EROA

REGAINING lost pride will be the driving force as titleholder Welcoat collides with nemesis Shark Energy Drink today in the PBL Chairman's Cup quarterfinals at the Makati Coliseum.

"The team is tired of losing to Shark. It's payback time," said Welcoat coach Junel Baculi. The Paintmasters trail the Power Boosters, 1-5 in their head-to-head matches since the Challenge Cup.

Gametime is 4 p.m., after the 2 p.m. clash between Osaka Iridology and Ateneo-Pioneer.

Collaring Shark, however, is easier said than done. With an impressive 9-1 win-loss record, the Power Boosters are already assured of the top spot and the twice-to-beat privilege in the carryover semis.

Welcoat (6-3), a three-time champion before its domination was cut short by Shark in the Challenge Cup, is locked in a struggle with Ana Freezer (6-3) for the second and final twice-to-beat incentive.

"I'm not surprised at all that Welcoat badly wants to beat us. We also want to beat them," said Shark mentor Leo Austria. Shark whipped Welcoat, 75-63, in the elims last March 24 but Austria believes that a 'different' foe will show up today.

Saying Baculi's charges are peaking at the right time, Austria expects rough sailing for the Power Boosters.

"They are now organized," Austria noted. Welcoat, getting big shows from Yancy de Ocampo and Ren Ren Ritualo, is riding high on a five-game winning streak.

BACULI AUSTRIA

POC suspension looms

BY JUNE NAVARRO

THE PHILIPPINES is bound to be the first casualty of the Olympic Council of Asia's "Aomori Declaration" if the temporary restraining order intended to stop the elections of the Basketball Association of the Philippines on June 7 pushes through.

Celso Dayrit, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, said the TRO filed by Quinteliano "Tiny" Literal before a Manila court could spark the suspension of the POC from OCA-sanctioned events such as the Asian Games and the Asian Winter Games.

"That could be the basis for the POC's suspension," said Dayrit referring to the TRO lodged before the sala of Judge Artemio Tipon of the Manila Regional Trial Court.

Announced by the OCA during its recent meeting in Aomori, Japan, the Aomori Declaration aims to bar National Olympic Committees in Asia whose government interrupts its normal functions.

The declaration is designed to strengthen rule 31.5 of the International Olympic Committee charter, which states the Olympic body will withdraw its recognition to NOCs suffering from government intervention.

PBA primer

THE PBA and Viva Vintage Sports will telecast a two-hour primer on the PBA Commissioner's Cup at 10 tonight over IBC 13.

Kings claim finals berth

HOOP It Up Kings dealt the Knights their second loss, 76-62, to nail the first finals slot in the ongoing 2001 FIBL Tournament at the Makati Coliseum last Sunday.

RP booters fight Laotians

THE PHILIPPINE national football team squares off with the Laos XI at 6 tonight at the Ultra in the first World Cup qualifier game ever to be played in the Philippines. Organized as a free-futbol-cum-rock concert, the award winning ethnic percussion band Pinikpikan will open the international match, which will also serve as the unofficial promotions salvo for the next year's Asean football championship.

Football is gaining renewed popularity among the Filipino youngsters, said Jono Miranda during a press conference held yesterday at the National Sports Grill.

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Malonzo: They're delaying the inevitable A20

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Gonzalez: I thought apology was enough

BY AGNES E. DONATO

THE ARREST warrant for Jose Mari Gonzalez came as a slap in the face for the outgoing San Juan congressman, who still doesn't know what to make of the charges against him for slapping the sergeant-at-arms of the House of Representatives at the start of the Estrada impeachment trial last year.

"I was shocked," Gonzalez said in a phone interview yesterday. "The arrest was totally unexpected."

He added he did not think Brig. Gen. Bayani Fabic (ret.), the former sergeant-at-arms, would actually pursue the filing of slander by deeds case against him.

"I thought everything was all right between us after I apologized," he said. "I really thought it was over, as I have already been reprimanded by the House ethics committee."

Gonzalez, who recently lost in his reelection bid to represent San Juan in Congress, said he had not received a subpoena from the Quezon City court prior to his arrest.

"It would have been impossible for us to miss the subpoena if it was really served because our house was always open during the election period," he said.

Gonzalez said he was told "by some quarters in Congress" that a certain group of people has been pressuring Fabic to press charges against him.

"I don't know who these people are and what I've done against them," he said.

Among those who were offended by the slapping incident was

GONZALEZ

the Association of General and Flag Officers Inc., which called for Gonzalez's ouster from Congress.

Ilocos City Rep. Raul Gonzalez was also quoted as saying he would pursue the complaint against

GONZALEZ/ A20

Boy dies in SM acccident

BY ALCUIN PAPA

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD boy on Thursday accidentally fell to his death from the second floor of the SM Southmall in Las Piñas City.

Jerome Velasco, of Block 22, Lot 2, GSIS Townhomes in Molino, Bacoor, Cavite, suffered broken bones and a cracked skull in the fall. He was declared dead on arrival at the Perpetual Help Medical Center in Las Piñas.

The boy was malling with his 70-year-old grandmother, Josefina Velasco, when the accident happened, according to SPO1 Willy Dalawangbayan of the Las Piñas Police Criminal Investigation Division.

The two were walking on the second floor of the mall about 5 p.m. when Jerome broke free from his

BOY/ A20

Valenzuela police officer's slay suspects known

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA AND LOUIE JON A. SANCHEZ

POLICE have identified the suspects who killed the deputy police chief of Valenzuela City during a bus robbery on the North Luzon Expressway Wednesday night.

Supt. Nemesio Neron, Valenzuela Police chief, said he and his men would be able to arrest the robbers who shot to death Supt. Eugenio Casalme, anytime today or tomorrow.

The Inquirer is withholding the names of the suspects to avoid stalling the arrest.

The suspects, Neron said, have several criminal records and were involved in a series of highway robberies on the expressway.

Members of the Valenzuela and Pampanga police were casing the suspects' safehouse somewhere in Luzon yesterday.

Armed with a grenade, a .45-caliber pistol, and a fan knife, the suspects killed Casalme in cold blood while they were robbing passengers of an Aladin Transit bus at the Pampanga stretch of the expressway.

Neron condemned the killing since initial investigation showed that Casalme did not try to fight the heavily armed robbers.

Casalme surrendered his money when one of the robbers began divesting passengers of their money and valuables, Neron said.

A second suspect, who tried to ascertain that all valuables had been taken, noticed that Casalme was wearing his police uniform pants, he added.

The suspect then took Casalme's service firearm and shot him in the chest, investigation showed.

Before the robbers alighted at the San Simon exit of the expressway in Pampanga minutes later, a third suspect shot Casalme in the back of the head, police said.

Casalme, a police officer for 28 years, was on his way home to San Fernando, Pampanga, when he was killed.

Manggagaw
Bilang Bata

YOUNG WORKERS JOAN BONDOC

These are the hands of children who work. (From left) Tricycle driver JP Arminar, 15; sugar cane field workers Ricarter Sotto and Argie Gerundio, both from Ormoc, Leyte; and scavengers Bernadette and Melody, both from Bulacan, with their painted hands signed a pledge of commitment as part of the "Yes to Children" campaign, during a program in Malacañang on Thursday.

AQUINO

'Kris and Tell' to replace 'Balitang Kris'

BY LEAH SALTERIO

THE DAILY late-afternoon show of Inquirer columnist Kris Aquino on ABS-CBN will soon be reformatted into a new program, "Kris and Tell," to be launched on Monday, June 4.

The new show will be aired on the same slot, 5 to 5:30 p.m., Mondays to Fridays.

"Kris and Tell," which is also the name of the Inquirer column of Kris in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, will replace "Balitang Kris," which earlier adopted a news and entertainment format.

The launch was delayed, according to Aquino, since the new show will use a special modular set which takes a minimum of two weeks to build.

"Kris and Tell" will be under the entertainment division of the network.

"The show will be a show biz, pop culture, lifestyle and travel show, very much in tune with the tone of my column," Aquino said.

"ABS-CBN realized the wisdom of letting me be myself and in establishing the specific branding of 'Kris and Tell,'" she added.

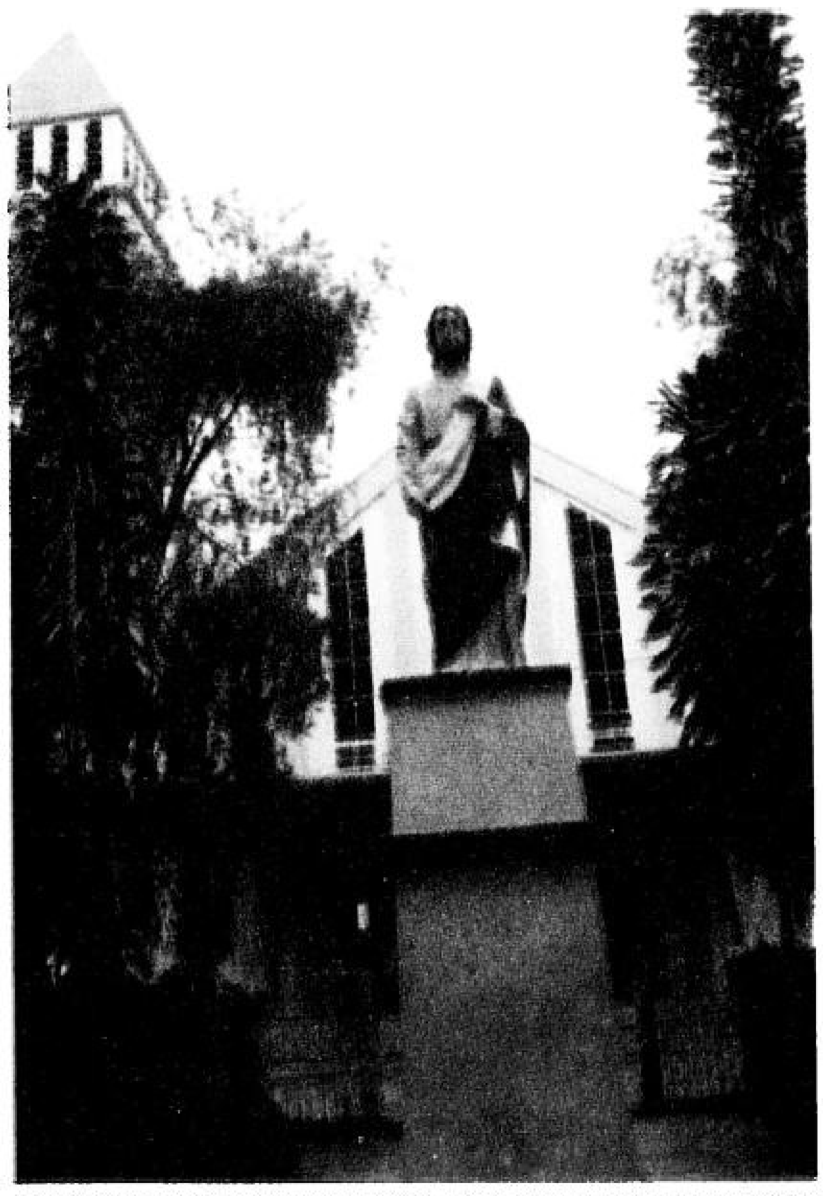
June 4 is the birthday of Aquino's son, Joshua, who is turning 6.

Aquino said she is taking Josh to Boracay, where they will celebrate his birthday. They will be accompanied by her sister Viel and Viel's daughter and cousin Rina Teopaco with two of her own kids.

Viel and Rina are the godmothers of Josh.

"He'll love to have his two *ninangs* and two cousins with us," Aquino said.

Aquino and her son were also in Boracay last year for Mother's Day. Two weeks ago, Aquino also taped segments for "Balitang Kris" in the resort island



ST. JOSEPH Church in Baguio City, where Aga and Charlene will be married. E.V. ESPIRITU

Baguio gets ready for Monday wedding of Aga and Charlene

BY VINCENT CABREZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The city is bracing itself for an onslaught of heavy traffic on Monday, wedding day of movie stars Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzales.

Already, rerouting of traffic is in place for vehicles passing through Itogon in Benguet, the Presidential Mansion and the Mines View Park, all favorite tourist destinations.

Security is also expected to tighten at Camp John Hay, where the wedding reception will be held. President Macapagal-Arroyo is one of the principal sponsors in the wedding.

The average Baguio resident, however, appears to be beyond the frenzy a celebrity wedding would stir.

"We've seen celebrity weddings before," said Divina Carreon, a high school English teacher at the St. Louis High School extension in Pacdal, whose enrolment schedules next week could be disrupted by the wedding.

The school is in the compound of the St. Joseph Church where the wedding of Aga and Charlene is scheduled at 3 p.m. on Monday.

The only other show biz stars who chose the same church for their wedding were Robert Arevalo and Barbara Perez who were married in the '60s, according to St. Joseph parish priest Fr. Vicente Castro.

But the summer capital of the Philippines remains to be a favorite setting for weddings. Baguio City Hall records show that since 1971, the number of weddings solemnized here continues to rise. Even Japanese tourists are known to hold weddings here.

Baguio's popularity as a wedding venue can be attributed to its cool climate and honeymoon ambiance. And it's also cheaper to get married here, according to local civil registrar Sylvia Laudencia.

"We are a highly urbanized city but we only charge P62 for a marriage license," Laudencia said. "In other localities, they charge P200 to P300. In Metro Manila, they charge you more than P200. We may be the cheapest."

Add to that the abundance of the freshest and cheapest vegetables, and Baguio weddings could be a real bargain compared to the high cost of weddings held in Metro Manila, said a local wedding organizer.

Muhlach and Gonzales are among the many couples who are scheduled to wed during Baguio City's peak month for weddings. On Thursday, a long line of couples seeking marriage licenses formed at the civil registrar's office.

"We have a peak time for weddings—between December and February and May and June," said Laudencia. "In a regular period, wedding applicants average 150 a month, with about 50 more from out of town. During peak periods, this figure doubles. Even foreigners get married here.

"In a month, two to three Japanese tourists wed here. (They like it here) because of the climate maybe. After the wedding, they can go straight to their honeymoon so it is cheaper."

Castro said Muhlach has agreed to have the 41-year-old church repainted for his wedding. But he refused to spend no more than P200,000.

As of Thursday, four days before the wedding, hired painters continued to labor on the church walls.

BAGUIO/ A23

Wazzzzup?

8th day ST. FRANCIS SQ. ORTIGAS CTR.	DIVAS	P 300 CONSUMABLE ☎ 634.7696/98
AUDIOTORIUM 28 WEST AVE. QUEZON CITY	ROCKIN' REVIVAL	374.2330/373.5574
Cowboy Grill	THINKERS w/JOGRAD FEEDBACK	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 801.7644
Cowboy Grill	HOMOSAPIENS KNIGHTS/HIMIG	P 250 CONSUMABLE 9-3 AM/525.1474
Cowboy Grill	STAY TUNED SWEETBLOOD	P 250 CONSUMABLE 9-2 AM/521.8143
Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES Q.C.	KOOL JACKS MR. ROXY/REPLICA	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 936.9757
KAMPO 2088 #47 WEST AVENUE Q.C.	GLADYS & D' BOXER D' BOSS/1201	P 200 CONSUMABLE ☎ 373.5110
EXAMINER'S LITE n'LIVE #52 EXAMINER ST. Q.C.	ERASERHEADS POLICY	P 150 CONSUMABLE ☎ 373.2221
music WAREHOUSE INFRONT OF CENTRAL MARKET	TOYZ SLIDE	OTHER SPECIAL GUESTS 735.1280/735.1405
STUDIO A MUSIC BAR	JOEY "PEPE" SMITH LESLIE MONTES	P150 CONSUMABLE ☎ 410.3464
SOUTHERN BLUES 40 TIMOG AVENUE, Q.C.	RETROSPECT FLIPSIDE	373.8964/65
TIA MARIA'S JUPITER ST., MAKATI CITY	VERSE 2	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 890.4735
TROPICAL FOREST Cafe · Grill · Restaurant	CRUISIN	PICA-PICA PLATTER P200/MON-FRI

OTHER PLACES

Jer's REAL CALAMBA, LAGUNA	ALTER EGO (FULL FORCE)	P 50 ENTRANCE ☎ (0919)278.6391
Ka Freddie Music Restaurant MARCOS HIGHWAY, ANTIPOLO	MAEGAN AGUILAR PIRANHA	P 75 ENTRANCE ☎ 677.0795
Partyplace SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA	TWIST OF 8	MONGOLIAN BARBECUE WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

SATURDAY, MAY 26 [illegible]

Malonzo: They're delaying the inevitable

By Christian V. Esguerra

AS THE canvassing of votes in Caloocan City entered the final stretch, the exchange of charges between opposing political camps also heated up as Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo began to pull away in the race for the mayoralty.

Flor Anastacio, Malonzo's legal counsel, yesterday dismissed the charges of lawyers of Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio who claimed that the Commission on Elections has been railroading the canvassing of votes in the city.

Anastacio accused members of the Asistio camp of engaging in "dilatory tactics" when Malonzo took a commanding lead over Asistio in the latest Comelec tally.

"They are delaying the inevitable," Anastacio said, referring to Asistio's lawyers.

After posting a slim margin over Malonzo in the first few days of the canvassing, Asistio began to trail the mayor by 13,361 votes as of Thursday night.

Asistio garnered 65,282 votes while Malonzo got 78,643.

During yesterday's canvassing, Asistio's counsel, Pablo Casimina, accused Caloocan election officer Calixtro Ramos of "railroading" the proceedings by denying most of his camp's motions.

Casimina said he and other Asistio lawyers had been requesting the Comelec to summon members of the board of election inspectors to ascertain signatures in the election returns.

He warned that many election returns could have been switched or padded because of alleged discrepancies in the signatures of poll watchers.

"We don't really care who wins," Casimina said. "We just want to follow the procedures."

In reply, Ramos said, "The board will not succumb to any pressure … and threats."

Anastacio said Asistio's counsels raised the issue to delay the proceedings, put a cloud of doubt on the canvassing, and intimidate the board of canvassers.

Anastacio said that right after the May 14 elections, canvassing of votes revealed a close fight between Asistio and Malonzo because the election returns counted were from the city's second district, Asistio's bailiwick.

But Malonzo began to pull away after the Comelec started canvassing election returns from the first district, Anastacio added.

As of yesterday afternoon, there were still 19 ballot boxes yet to be opened, she said.

In the latest Comelec count, former Mayor Macario "Boy" Asistio Jr. was trailing Councilor Edgar Erice, 28,357 to 28,839, in the congressional race for district 2.

In the first district, reelectionist Rep. Enrico Echiverri was ahead of Vice Mayor Oscar Malapitan, 40,680 to 24,532.

Boy dies in SM...

(From page A19)

grandmother and ran to the railing overlooking the ground-floor atrium of the mall, police said.

Josefina said Jerome was looking at the other children playing on the ground floor and apparently started climbing the metal railing when she wasn't looking.

But she turned around in time to see her grandson lose his balance on the slippery railing and fall one floor below, Josefina said.

Bystanders rushed Jerome to the hospital but he was declared dead on arrival.

Jerome's mother Vanessa refused to bring the boy's body to the PNP Crime Laboratory for autopsy.

Police said the boy's family did not blame anyone and admitted that Jerome's death was an accident.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, May 26, 2001
6th Week of Easter

1st Reading: *Acts 18:23-28*

Gospel: *Jn 16:23-28*

Jesus said to his disciples, "When that day comes you will not ask me anything. Truly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my Name, he will give you. So far you have not asked in my Name; ask and receive that your joy may be full.

I taught you all this in veiled language, but the time is coming when I shall no longer speak in veiled language, but will tell you plainly of the Father.

When that day comes, you will ask in my Name and it will not be for me to ask the Father for you, for the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and you believe that I came from the Father. As I came from the Father and have come into the world, so I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

Commentary:

Jesus presents to us his life purpose and consequently that of his disciples. Only when the disciples have understood this, are they able to enter into the cycle of life and love between the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit. If there is anything we need to ask for, it is to understand our life purpose and live from moment to moment accordingly. Joy thus sets into our lives, for the reign of God is right here and now. Everything becomes relative in relation to this reign.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Relationship between witness and victim—The imputation of ulterior motive has absolutely no basis at all and is nothing more than a vacuous speculation. Blood relationship between a witness and the victim does not, by itself, impair the credibility of the former. On the contrary, relationship strengthens credibility, for it is unnatural for an aggrieved relative to falsely accuse someone else other than the actual culprit. The earnest desire to seek justice for a dead kin is no served should the witness abandon his conscience and prudence and blame one who is innocent of the crime. Consequently, in the absence of any evidence that would suggest an improver motive against the eyewitnesses the conclusion is immutable that none had existed and that their testimony is worthy of credence. [Citations omitted.] [Chief Justice Davide, Jr., People v. Sualog, G.R. No. 134310, November 15, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

Gonzalez: I thought apology was enough

(From page A19)

Gonzalez in case Fabic backed down.

The embattled congressman also condemned the courts for allegedly not giving him due process.

"This is the kind of injustice we are getting from the courts," he said. "If this can be done to me, how much more to ordinary people?"

Yet, Gonzalez is confident he would be able to get himself out of this mess.

"I was not given a chance to present my side of the issue," Gonzalez said. "But I believe things will be different once I get to explain my actions."

On Nov. 13, then-Speaker Manuel Villar quickly read through the impeachment resolution against Estrada which caused an uproar in Congress.

Gonzalez said he was caught in the heat of the moment and slapped Fabic, who was then trying to pacify other solons and keeping them from occupying the podium.

The slapping incident was aired on television nationwide.

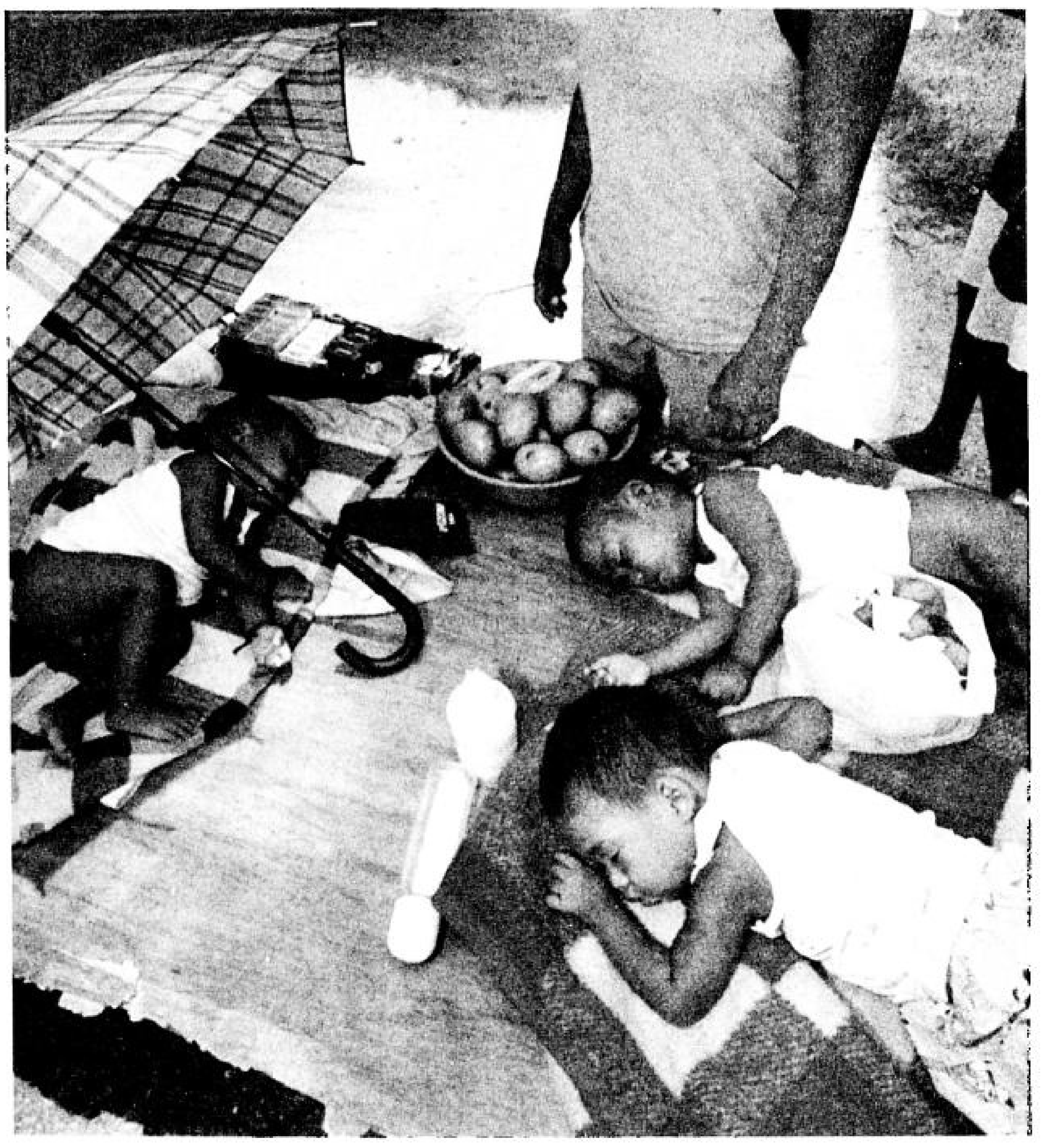
Gonzalez later issued a public apology and personally asked Fabic for forgiveness, claiming he was only carried away by his emotion.

Fabic accepted the apology, but said he would pursue the filing of charges against Gonzalez.

Gonzalez is also facing other charges in connection with the arrest of 68 armed men who allegedly worked for him during his campaign.

The 68 men, alleged members of the Guardians Brotherhood, were arrested in San Juan on the eve of the election.

Police said the "armed goons" admitted during interrogation in Camp Crame that Gonzalez hired them to secure election precincts in San Juan.



YOUNG HOMELESS

Children in different stages of dress and undress, with a wooden table for a bed and an umbrella for a roof, sleep while their parents sell cigarettes and face towels along Quirino Avenue in Malate, Manila. Chances are, most of them would grow up to live on the streets, like their parents. DENNIS SABANGAN

Trader shoots self in front of wife

A 36-YEAR-OLD businessman, who was said to have incurred huge debts, shot himself to death in front of his wife in Navotas the other day.

Victim Angelito de Jesus died on the spot after he shot himself on the right temple at about 1 p.m. inside his house in Carville Subdivision, Barangay Tanza, said case investigator PO3 Noel Banares.

De Jesus, a fish dealer and a father of three, could have ended his life because of his failure to pay his many debts, the victim's wife Emily told investigators.

A month before his death, the victim appeared disturbed and refused to take his meals regularly, the wife added.

Last Tuesday, the wife brought the victim's lunch in their bedroom and insisted that he take his meal, initial investigation showed.

Unknown to Emily, her husband had already prepared to kill himself by hiding a .38-cal. revolver under the pillow, police said.

Just when the wife was about to get a glass of water, the victim took the gun, aimed it at his right temple, and pulled the trigger, police said.

Operatives of the Navotas Police Station Investigation Division recovered the gun, a spent shell, and a live ammunition inside the victim's bedroom.

The victim's body was brought to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for autopsy.

ARANETA CENTER events
SHOWS • GIGS • MOVIES • PROMOS • SHOWS • GIGS • MOVIES • PROMOS

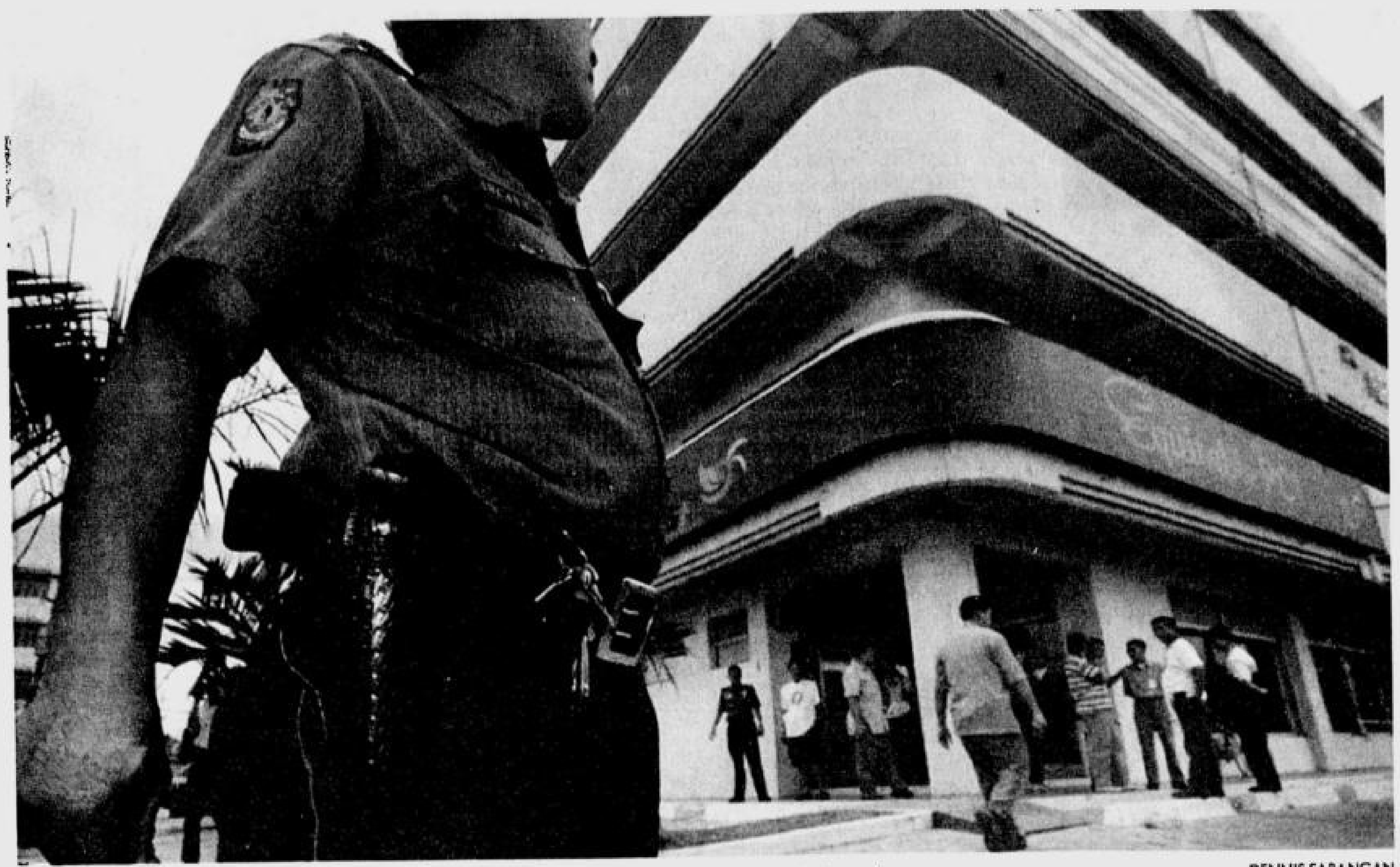
MAY 26 SATURDAY
DYNA presents VANGEL & RICO PANGAKO Album Tour 4 pm ali mall
FORMULA Mini-Concert 3:30 pm Atrium FARMERS PLAZA
FAMILY FUNDAY Clown & Magician Show 3:00 pm • Concourse

MAY 27 SUNDAY
HANNA & YAM VILLAME LEDESMA Mini-Concert 4:00 pm • Atrium ali mall
MARI & LLOYD ZARAGOZA Mini-Concert 3:30 pm Atrium FARMERS PLAZA

MAY 29 TUESDAY
westlife COAST TO COAST ARANETA COLISEUM 8:00 pm

JUNE 3 SUNDAY
PBA SECOND CONFERENCE COMMISSIONER'S CUP ARANETA COLISEUM 4:15 pm

for more info, contact the Promotions Department at 911-1426 / 911-3101 loc. 8291 or visit our websites at www.aranetacenter.net • www.aranetacoliseum.com.ph • www.ticketnet.com.ph • www.bbpilipinas.com



AFTER the robbery, policemen and kibitzers stand outside the Equitable Bank branch. DENNIS SABANGAN

QC Equitable Bank robbed; 1 man slain

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez and Ma. Lydia Almiñana

ABOUT seven armed men pulled off a daring broad daylight heist at an Equitable-PCI Bank branch on Congressional Avenue in Quezon City yesterday, stealing an estimated P500,000 in cash and killing a bank security guard.

Members of the Central Police District are hunting down the robbers who escaped on board a maroon Toyota Revo with plate number WDF 853, which they abandoned only a few hundred meters away from the bank.

Security guard Herman Roquero, 35, of Sitio Militar, Project 8, Quezon City, sustained a fatal gunshot wound in the left side of the chest and was declared dead on arrival at the Quezon City General Hospital, police said.

According to case investigator SPO1 Ferdinand Paredes, the armed men arrived in the bank at about 10:30 a.m.

Four of the armed men went inside the bank while about three others remained outside.

Before pulling off the heist, one of the armed men reportedly asked the guard where they could open a bank account.

Roquero opened the bank's door and let them in.

However, one of the suspects, who was armed with Armalite rifle, shot him in the chest before announcing the robbery that was finished in just one minute, police said.

Bank employee Ma. Antonette Diaz said the suspects took the money only from the tellers as the vault could not be opened.

Two armed groups take P100,000

By Paul Ernest Lazaro

TWO ARMED groups took a total of P100,000 in cash and valuables in two cases of highway robbery in Malabon and nearby Bulacan province on Thursday and yesterday.

Six heavily armed men robbed a gray passenger Toyota Tamaraw FX taxi at about 11 p.m. Thursday on the North Luzon Expressway in Sta. Rita, Bulacan, police said.

Driver Florentino Rivero, 34, lost his taxi, gold ring, and P25,000 in cash, while passengers Johny Gabarete, Alma Pallasigua, Gilda Egos, and Mary Ann Paulino lost their cellular phones, pieces of jewelry, automated teller machine cards, and cash.

The suspects, police said, boarded the Pampanga-bound taxi in Camachile, Quezon City.

When the vehicle was already in the Sta. Rita stretch of the expressway, the group announced the heist and took the valuables of the driver and the passengers, initial investigation showed.

The suspects ordered Rivero to drive back to Manila. The robbers left the victims at the corner of C-3 Road and North Bay Boulevard South in Navotas and escaped with Rivero's vehicle, police said.

The suspects remain at large.

In Malabon, police arrested Benjie Beo, 21, Reynaldo de la Cruz, 26, Robert Rocillo, 46, and Danilo Gomo, 21, for allegedly robbing another Tamaraw FX taxi in Barangay Potrero at about 7 a.m. yesterday.

Armed with knives, the suspects announced the robbery when the Monumento-bound taxi reached the Potrero area of MacArthur Highway, investigation showed.

They took the cash, cellular phones, and other personal items of Joseph Dagondon, 26, and Eduardo Reyes, 50.

The alleged robbers then sped off toward University Avenue on board a tricycle, police said.

After a brief chase, members of the Malabon Police Mobile Patrol Unit, led by PO2 Alex Calabucal and PO2 Eric de los Argus, were able to arrest the suspects on Del Monte Avenue.

Man drowns in Manila Bay

By Jerome Aning

AN UNIDENTIFIED drunken man who was answering nature's call on a rocky portion of the shore of Manila Bay along Roxas Boulevard in Ermita, Manila drowned before dawn yesterday after he either slipped or was struck by huge waves.

SPO4 Ernesto Jose, homicide investigator, described the victim as between 30 and 35 years old, about 4-feet-11, wearing a blue shirt and jeans, and with the name "Billy" tattooed on his left lower leg.

A boatman, Lito Helduela, found the man's floating body around noon yesterday, with the dead man's pants pulled down.

Squatters and vagrants living along the seawall told PSO4 Jose that they last saw the apparently drunken man swaggering along Roxas Boulevard the night before.

He was last seen going to a rocky portion on the shore and lowering his pants to defecate.

SPO4 Jose said the victim had a cut on the forehead, which could indicate that he slipped. But the cut may have also resulted when the victim was felled by huge waves, which swept him into the sea, Jose added.

The victim's body was taken to the Tres Amigos funeral homes in Paco for autopsy.

HIJACKING suspects (from left) Cleofas Cayabo, Adolfo Bernardo, Reynaldo Paduga, Jose Calvo and (partly hidden) Pablo Cervantes are questioned by Senior Supt. Vidal Querol (left) and Supt. Ernesto Fojas of the Northern Police District. DENNIS SABANGAN

17-year-old shot dead

By Jerome Aning

A 17-YEAR-OLD student was shot dead when he and his friends were attacked by a group of other youths in Sta. Cruz, Manila before dawn yesterday.

Randy Macalansag, a resident of 273 First Street, Grace Park, Caloocan City, was struck by a bullet in the face, police said. He was pronounced dead on arrival at the Chinese General Hospital.

Two of the suspects, Rommel Dungo, 21, and Eder Gorayeb, 22, residents of Quiricada Street, Sta. Cruz, were arrested in a follow-up operation by members of the Western Police District's homicide section.

Macalansag and his friends Anthony Balan, 20, and Roberto Flores were on board a Caloocan City-bound jeep that was moving along Rizal Avenue when the group attacked them at 1:45 a.m., police said.

Investigator SPO1 Raul Olavario said the trio visited the house of Balan's 15-year-old girlfriend on Quiricada on Thursday night, the birthday of the girl's mother.

The party soon turned into a drinking spree, during which the suspects' group arrived to fetch a female friend. Balan, however, got jealous, thinking that one of the young men in the other group was courting his girlfriend.

A heated argument started between Balan and the suspects, but cooler heads prevailed.

The mother of Balan's girlfriend told Balan, Flores and Macalansang to go home to avoid getting in trouble.

The trio rode a jeepney at the corner of Rizal Avenue and Alvarez Street. When the vehicle passed Quiricada, a group of youths led by Dungo and Goorayeb came on board. A free-for-all ensued, during which a gunshot rang and Macalansag fell bleeding.

As the suspects ran in different directions, the jeepney driver brought the victim to the CGH.

Balan, a resident of Old Damar Street, Marulas, Valenzuela City, was also brought to the same hospital for bruises and cuts on the face and body.

A police operation in the area resulted in the arrest of Dungo and Gorayeb. Policemen were still looking for the other suspects.

Lawyer nabbed for 'harassing' daughter of Pasig mayor

By Agnes E. Donato

A LAWYER who claimed to be a confidential agent of the National Bureau of Investigation was arrested on Thursday afternoon for allegedly harassing a daughter of Mayor Vicente Eusebio of Pasig City.

But PO3 Efren Calix said the badge that Miguel Armovit had flashed around was no longer valid.

The badge, it was learned, carried the signature of late NBI director Federico Opinion Jr., not of current bureau chief Reynaldo Wycoco.

Charges of usurpation of authority, unjust vexation and grave threat were filed against Armovit by Arlene Eusebio, 42, daughter of the Pasig City mayor and owner of Armed Realty Development Corp.

Investigation showed that Armovit went to Eusebio's office on C. Raymundo Avenue in Barangay Maybunga, Pasig at about 1:30 a.m. on May 24.

Armovit arrived along with a sheriff and asked Eusebio's secretary about one of the companies renting space in the building, UNF Quality Natural Food Inc.

Armovit and the secretary had a difficulty communicating, so Eusebio came out to talk to the lawyer who claimed that he had a "writ of replevin" for the building tenant.

Explaining that she was not a lawyer, Eusebio asked what a "writ of replevin" was. Armovit said he came to seize some materials allegedly owned by his client, a certain Mr. Armstrong, from the tenant.

But Eusebio refused to let the suspect get the materials, reasoning that she didn't know the personality of Armovit's alleged client. Irked, Armovit allegedly started flashing his NBI badge.

"He even thrust his badge in my face and asked me if I was questioning the law," Eusebio's daughter said. "I got really embarrassed."

Recovered from Armovit were an NBI badge and an NBI ID card bearing the number 2343.

All IDs signed by Opinion, it was learned, are now being recalled.

this year's QUEST for the BEST culminates
TONIGHT AT 9:00

2001 METROPOP SONG FESTIVAL
FINALS NIGHT

Behold the triumph
of the Filipino musical artist
as sixteen talented individuals
make their historic mark in the biggest
songwriting competition in the land.

The Finalists
La Verne M. Ducut and Catherine A. Carlos
Rachelle Tesoro
Vincent Wongalham
Dada de Pano-Supnet
Ruth R. Bagalay and Bonnie S. Melocoton
Dennis D. Garcia
Mon Espia
Louie J. Ocampo and Joey Ayala
Ruben P. Lopez, Jr.
Noel Mahinay
Arnel Sevilla and Alexander Castro
Rock Custodio

The INTERPRETERS
Martin Nievera
Angelika dela Cruz
Cynthia Alexander
Judith Banal
Maxine
Dianne dela Fuente
.sessionroad
Frozen Pie
Saisons and Friends
Icebox
Niño Alejandro
and Anna Fegi

The GUEST PERFORMERS
Lani Misalucha
Bituin Escalante
Verni Varga
and
Rachel Alejandro

The HOSTS
Ryan Cayabyab
and Jaya

GMA
WHERE YOU BELONG

CHAMPIONS WILL BE MADE. LEGENDS WILL BE BORN.

Marquez calls for reconciliation

MAYOR Joey P. Marquez called for reconciliation upon his recent proclamation as mayor of Parañaque City for the third term.

Marquez beat Pablo Olivarez also for the third straight time by nearly 15,000 votes, garnering 80,876 votes as against Olivarez's 66,152.

Eduardo G. Zialcita won the lone congressional seat in the city, while Marquez's running mate and incumbent vice mayor Florencio M. Bernabe Jr. also kept his post to complete what Parañaquenos refer to as a "3-0 grand slam" by Lakas-NUCD.

Marquez said it was the first time for a political party to have won all three positions for congressman, mayor and vice mayor in the same election.

"This means that my constituents are now assured of a solid performance team whose members will support and complement one another to bring about a more vigorous growth in Parañaque," Marquez said.

Marquez likewise enjoined his supporters as well as his staunchest critics and rivals to join hands and work together.

"Let's forget all the animosity and hatred in our heart now that the people have spoken," he said.

On reports that the protesters who stormed and camped out at the gates of the City Hall during the ballot-counting were disgruntled residents of the city, Marquez said they were not speaking for the Parañaquenos.

A brother of Marquez's wife Alma Moreno was seriously stabbed when violence erupted during such a protest action.

Marquez's bets for councilors almost swept the recent election as well, winning nine out of the 12 available slots.

The winners (first district) are Jaime J. Nery Jr., Fe S. Factor, Pablo M. Gabriel and Alberto G. Buenavista; and (second district) Anjo Andres G. Yllana, Gustavo S. Tambunting, Giovanni E. Esplana, Jesus C. Bustamante and Generoso V. Puzon.

COMMISSION on Election City Board of Canvassers chair lawyer Elmer M. Kayanan proclaim Joey P. Marquez as mayor and Eduardo C. Zialcita (extreme left) as representative of Parañaque City at the PICC. Also in photo is city board of canvassers vice chair Benedicto D. Tabaquero.

NEW BARAS MAYOR

Lawyer Dionisio "Dindo" T. Garciano was officially proclaimed by the Commission on Elections as the winner in the tightly contested mayoral race in Baras, Rizal. The chair of the municipal board of canvassers, with municipal treasurer Corazon Endozo proclaimed Garciano after the Comelec count showed that he had garnered 4,948 votes, beating his lone rival, incumbent Robert Ferrera. Garciano, who is a prominent labor and international corporate lawyer, was the PPC-Lakas-NUCD-UMDP candidate.

PROUD DAD

Makati Mayor-elect Jejomar C. Binay (right) beams as he pins a medal on his son, Jejomar Erwin "Jun-Jun" Binay Jr., who graduated cum laude from the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, with a degree of Bachelor of Arts in Philippine Studies, major in Creative Writing and Public Administration. The young Binay won a council seat in Makati's first district in the recent local election.

MUNTINLUPA STILL FOR BUNYE

Rep. Ignacio R. Bunye (right) is mobbed by supporters after his speech at a thanksgiving Mass held early this week at the Muntinlupa Elementary School in Barangay Poblacion. Bunye thanked the thousands of people who flocked to the event for their unwavering support.

FRESNEDI'S TRIUMPH

Reelectionist Jaime R. Fresnedi (left) and his running mate, lawyer Jojay Alcaraz (right), are proclaimed by the board of canvassers as the new mayor and vice mayor of Muntinlupa after the May 14 polls. Also in photo is Comelec officer Ma. Lourdes Ugalino (center). Fresnedi and Alcaraz both belong to the Lakas-NUCD-UMDP-PPC party, which swept the local polls as its councilors garnered 14 of the 16 slots.

Marikina signs pact with WB on bike lanes

MARIKINA is bicycle country.

This is after the World Bank (WB) and the city of Marikina wrapped loan negotiations on May 18, which would pave the way for the signing of a grant agreement where the city stands to receive a grant of $1.3 million for the construction of 66-kilometer bicycle lanes.

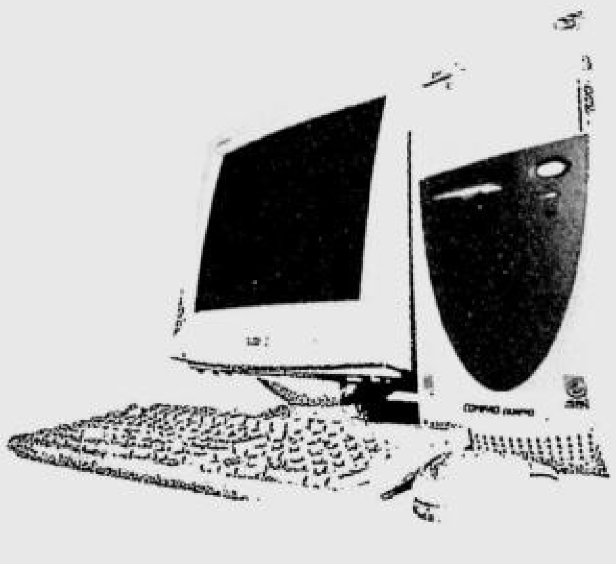
Marikina was chosen by the WB for the bikeways project because of its effective management of streets and sidewalks.

The financial grant will come from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), an allied agency of the WB.

The GEF was established to assist in the protection of the global environment and to promote environmentally sound and sustainable economic development.

According to a study, around 50,000 people are using bicycles in Marikina as an alternative mode of transportation and for carrying commercial goods. Similarly, an Ordinance No.137 was passed in 1996 which dwells on the use of all streets, avenues, alleys, sidewalks, bridges, parks, and other public places as bicycle lanes and the allotment of funds for their construction and maintenance.

The ordinance tends to protect bicycle riders and motorists from accidents.



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PROMO PERIOD: May 25 to May 31, 2001.

PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO.1578, SERIES OF 2001

Delay in Taguig

By Alcuin Papa

THE PROCLAMATION of election winners in Taguig could be delayed because of objections from the legal counsels of the candidates and because of numerous questionable election returns.

Local Commission on Elections (Comelec) officials yesterday told the Inquirer that most of the objections come from the lawyers of incumbent Mayor Ricardo Papa Jr.

Lawyer Romeo Alcazar, chair of the city's board of canvassers, said the canvassing of the votes could have been finished yesterday.

"The lawyers of Papa have been objecting to the canvassing of each and every election return," Alcazar said.

Papa's lawyers have also objected to Alcaraz's designation as chair of municipal board of canvassers.

Alcazar said he assumed the post on Wednesday upon orders of Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo after he had finished the counting of votes in Pasig City where he was first assigned.

He said that his designation as chair of the city's board of canvassers was done to speed up the counting in Taguig.

Alcazar promised to finish the counting and entertain the objections of the candidates at the soonest possible time.

"I will not stop until this is finished," he said. "I will only stop upon orders from the Comelec main office."

The counting has been delayed further because of two ballot boxes allegedly full of questionable election returns that need clarification from election precinct officials, according to lawyer Edgardo Abergos, assistant of Alcaraz.

Abergos said lawyers of the candidates are also questioning these returns.

In an earlier interview with the Inquirer, Abergos had said the counting was hampered by lack of manpower in the Comelec local office and the objections posed by the lawyers of the candidates.

Both Abergos and Alcazar said they could also finish counting results of the senatorial race and submit these to the main Comelec counting center at the Philippine International Convention Center.

As of Thursday, Freddi Tinga, son of former Taguig Rep. Dante Tinga, was ahead of Papa Jr. in the Comelec count, with a slight margin.

While no figures were released on the results of the congressional race, unofficial tallies showed that Alan Peter Cayetano, son of Sen. Rene Cayetano, was leading his rival Pepe Capco Jr.

Baguio . . .

(From page A19)

Muhlach's wedding organizer had also done elaborate wedding decorations for St. Joseph Church that include an artificial flower courtyard made of a series of wooden branches cast in concrete and lighted by a network of tiny lights.

But the preparations at the Camp John Hay Clubhouse will have to wait until Sunday night, a day before the wedding reception, which will be catered by the French restaurant Le Soufflé.

"The difficulty for the wedding coordinators is that the club will need to exhaust all its scheduled tournaments before they can make any changes (for the reception)," said Vren Acop, the club's executive secretary.

"There are tournaments on Friday and Saturday, and they can only start work on Sunday night, a day before the wedding, so they have a very tight schedule. We also share the pressure."

Muhlach's representatives have been very secretive about the wedding, saying only authorized people were being informed about Monday's ceremony. But residents near the church and Camp John Hay are not awed by the preparations. The only unusual reactions here involved the couple's fans clubs.

Muhlach's fans have started calling the St. Joseph rectory since March, seeking details about the wedding, a church worker told the Inquirer.

"They just call and tell us they are Aga's fans and then they ask for details, but we always say we do not know," the church worker said. "I even asked them what their interest was and they said they planned to travel to see Aga's wedding."

E.V. ESPIRITU

CAMP John Hay clubhouse, where the reception will take place.

As usual, the locals, who are known to have kept their distance from frequent celebrity visitors like Martin Nievera, Richard Gomez, Chin-chin Guiterrez and Roy Alvarez, are giving Aga and Charlene a wide berth, said Juliet Lagan, a values education teacher at St. Louis Pacdal.

"In fact, this attitude of Baguio (residents) is probably why Aga wants to marry Charlene here," she said. "Everyone here minds his own business so they need not worry about being mobbed."

But Lagan admitted interest in watching one of the most-publicized weddings of the year.

"Of course we will want to see it," she said. "It is still an event, but we were told we might not see it."

Lagan said she might need a pass to watch the wedding, just like watching a movie.

Jail visitor jailed

By Jerome Aning

RAMONA Ruby Alvarado, 22, missed her live-in partner Jerry so much that she visited him at the Western Police District detention center on Tuesday afternoon.

But Alvarado, also known as Monette, was herself put behind bars after policeman learned that she was an accomplice in a holdup last week for which her husband was arrested.

Monette went to the WPD-Integrated Jail at about 4 p.m. Tuesday to visit Jerry, 25. But the policeman sentry knew about Jerry's case and arrested Monette as soon as she introduced herself.

The couple held up teachers Jun Otsuka, 40, and Marlyn Magbanua along Rizal Avenue in Sta. Cruz Thursday last week, police said.

Otsuka tried to fight back but was stabbed by Jerry. A passerby, Hernani Depenio, 45, tried to assist the teachers but Monette, who acted as the lookout, slashed his belly with a surgical knife, police said.

Two passing policemen later arrested Jerry.

"I didn't mean to stab him, I was high (on solvents," Monette told reporters.

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4. 99 Luft Balloons	Joern Fahrenkrig-Peterson	TONE 99RED
5. What A Girl Wants	Christina Aguilera	TONE WHATAGIRL
6. Head Over Hills	Tears for Fears	TONE HEDOVRHIL
7. Better Off Alone	Alice Dee Jay/DJ Jur Gen	TONE OFFALONE
8. Superman Theme	Leon Klatskin	TONE SUPERMAN
9. Starwars 3 Theme	John Williams	TONE STRWRS3
10. Truly Madly Deeply	Savage Garden	TONE TRULYMAD

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8	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
9	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
10	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
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8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
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5	DOLBY SURROUND	TRAFFIC
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7	DTS	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MUMMY RETURNS
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
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4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN

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4	ULTRA SURROUND	THE CROW
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5	ULTRA SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
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1 SOMEONE LIKE YOU
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Second world festival for youth in Panama

THE NATIONAL Youth Commission invites all youths and youth organizations nationwide to participate in the Second Worldwide Festival for the Youth to be held in Panama City, Republic of Panama, July 21 to 28.

This was announced yesterday by NYC chairperson Mabel Villarica-Mamba.

Highlights of the festival include debates on topics of interest to the youth (with distinguished speakers from all over the world), International Fair of Cooperation with the participation of international agencies, International Fair of Handicrafts, international and regional seminars, workshops of different artistic nature, presentation of international artists and practice of several traditional and non-traditional sports.

The International Committee for the Worldwide Festival for the Youth is composed of regional platforms of youth organizations, namely, the Latin-American Forum for the Youth, Caribbean Federation for the Youth, European Forum for the Youth, Association of Asian Students and the Asian Council for the Youth.

Application for the Festival may be completed through the Internet, fax or mail. Payment may be made through credit card, telegraphic transfer, check or cash.

Interested parties may coordinate with the Consular Office of the Republic of Panama at Victoria Building, 429 United Nations Ave., Ermita, Manila.

Cahilig, 62

POLICE officer Ananias Cahilig, father of publicist and former Manila Times reporter Christopher Cahilig, died Thursday morning due to a malignant brain cancer. He was 62.

He is survived by his loving wife Sylvia; children Annaselle, Ananias II, Ananias Jr., Annabelle, Mary Ann, Annaliza, Fernando and Christopher; and grandchildren.

His remains lie at the Chapel-A of St. Peter Funeral Homes along Quezon Avenue in Quezon City. Interment is tentatively scheduled on Tuesday, May 29, at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	15 MINUTES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE POSSESSED
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	SPY KIDS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	15 MINUTES
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ODEON-2	KAMASUTRA 2001
ROBEN	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
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TANDEM-2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Standing up for consumer's rights

BY MARIO CORNEJO

A CANCER is eating away at our society, hindering our economy, and causing nationwide stress and frustration.

I'm talking about the lack of consumer advocacy, the violation of our rights as consumers.

Remember when you bought that wonder product that was sure to make you lose weight or grow taller or kill body odor? And, of course, it didn't work. Now you're a fat, short and smelly person. What are your options?

In this country, not much.

In countless places in the city, you see ubiquitous "No Return/No Exchange" signs on the doors of public establishments. If you're like me, you've often thought to yourself, "That can't be legal."

Brace yourself. It pretty much is.

"At the moment, there is no law prohibiting a no return, no exchange policy," says Ino Marquinez, an officer at one of the more prominent consumer advocacy groups.

Though there is a movement to pass such a law, it has been too long coming. Meanwhile, you're still stuck with an air mattress that deflates in 30 minutes.

Taken for granted

To say that our rights as consumers are being violated every single day is not an exaggeration. It's just that we have been subjected to it for so long that we take it for granted as the status quo.

Case in point: Poor customer service.

What are the odds that something you had delivered to your house or office actually arrived on time? I'd say 50/50 at best. Whether it's a pizza or a sofa, you absolutely cannot depend on prompt delivery. And yet we know and accept this without question. It's absolutely normal.

And while a lot of service industries such as restaurants and tourism are improving, most still feel that they can get away with murder. Remember the waiter that wouldn't give you a glass of water even after you've asked 50 times?

Recently, an aunt of mine was looking to fly to the United States, and looked through the papers at various ads of travel agencies. When she tried to avail herself of the offers that were listed, she was shocked at the level of duplicity and downright deception that she encountered.

One offer of an extremely cheap round-trip ticket was "soldout." Not just for the date she wanted, but completely. Till the end of time, when we get separated into sheep and goats. This in spite of the fact that the ad that mentioned it came out the same day she called.

Another ad promised two for one business class ticket. Upon further inquiry, she discovered that this offer was bogus as well. The rate was first pushed up to almost double the normal price, then offered at the "two for one" promotion.

As consumers, we Filipinos are pushed around every day.

Are you happy with your cellular phone network? I don't know a single person who hasn't cursed at his or her cell phone for having no signal, being unable to text, unable to load for many minutes, late messages, and so forth.

> *If an establishment treats you poorly, tell your friends, neighbors, officemates, etc. They need to know. I need to know. Then we can all avoid those establishments like the plague, and hopefully take them down.*

What to do

First off, complain.

Demand better service. Insist upon it, from that salesperson/waiter/agent/clerk. If that fails, then go to their manager and complain again. If that still doesn't get you better service, then go to the owner and complain again.

If that doesn't work, go to whatever government agency you can, whether it's the DTI, DOT, or any other acronym of your choice. Send it in writing. Don't rest until you've made yourself heard.

I recently reserved rooms at a resort for myself and a dozen or so of my friends three weeks ahead of the scheduled excursion. Three days before we were set to arrive, an unapologetic booking agent cancelled all but one of our rooms in favor of a bigger client.

Naturally I was outraged. After hostilities escalated, I made my voice heard as loudly and as clearly as I could, and threatened every legal recourse known to man. She promptly put the phone down on me and then turned it off.

The next day she called and we worked out a compromise. Proof positive that complaining is your best first option in cases like this. (That resort is not off the hook yet, though. If by the time you're reading this I am not completely relaxed and basking on a beach with a refreshing fruit shake, you'll be hearing from me again about this issue. And next time I'll name names).

Your next option, if the company doesn't mend its ways, is to take your business elsewhere. Switch cable companies, phone companies, whatever. Don't give them any more of your money. Your money is like your vote, and every purchase you make is like a small election.

You, as the consumer, have the economic power. Businesses need you to make money. (Unless they work for the government, but that's a whole other ball of wax).

Spread the word

The next thing you can do after your rights have been trampled is spread the word.

Word of mouth carries a lot of weight. It can make or break movies, marriages, and most of all, businesses.

If an establishment treats you poorly, tell your friends, neighbors, officemates, etc. They need to know. I need to know. Then we can all avoid those establishments like the plague, and hopefully take them down.

And if they don't shape up and word continues to spread, they will go down for sure. Then go there on their last day of business and laugh, HAHAHAHAHA! I'll bring the picnic basket. And the fiddle (for when they burn).

There is a desperate need for a nationwide discussion on consumer rights. Look up the different consumer advocacy groups in your area and see what you can do to help.

Let your congressman know there is a need to legislate protection of our rights as consumers.

Whether it's oil, electricity, transportation or the price of *taho*, we need to make our feelings known. And we need to stand up for our rights to good service, quality products and a machine that gives us great abs.

QC residents oppose school construction

RESIDENTS from various subdivisions around Christ the King Parish in Greenmeadows, Quezon City are opposing the construction of a private PAREF-Northfield school for boys on a three-hectare lot along Greenmeadows Avenue owned by the Quezon City government.

The school is said to be run by Opus Dei members.

This was revealed by Peter Paul Bautista, chair of the Coalition of Homeowners' Association (COHA), and lawyer Mario Ongkiko, head of the Kapatiran for the Common Good.

Residents opposing the school construction come from Greenmeadows I, White Plains, Acropolis, Corinthian Gardens, St. Ignatius, Ivory Court, Valle Verde VI and Greenmeadows III where the open space is located and where the proposed school is to be constructed.

The three-hectare "open space" intended for a community park was donated by Ortigas & Co. to the Quezon city government, according to Bautista and Ongkiko.

Upon representation by PAREF-Northfield School, the restriction was lifted by Ortigas & Co. which enabled PAREF-Northfield to negotiate with the Quezon City government represented by Mayor Mathay and the city council to proceed with the school construction.

The complainants want the city council "to recall the special resolution passed on March 20, 2001 which approved the memorandum of agreement between Mayor Ismael Mathay and the PAREF-Northfield School."

"We are not against the PAREF-Northfield School per se," Bautista said, "but we are against its construction along busy Greenmeadows Avenue because of ecological reasons and the serious traffic problem it will create. Traffic congestion, as everyone knows, is one of the bigger hassles of modern life.

"By opposing the school project along Greenmeadows Avenue, we want to avoid creating a situation that will surely give rise to problems in the future."

Ongkiko assailed the way the whole scheme was done. "No prior consultation was made by the city government with the villagers," he said. "How, in heaven's name, can the Quezon City government allow a private group to establish an exclusive elite school in an 'open space' owned by the city government?"

Korean arrested for slay attempt

MEMBERS of the Central Police District yesterday arrested a Korean national for allegedly trying to kill another Korean on Thursday in the latter's residence in Project 3, Quezon City.

Supt. Raul Medina, chief of the Central Police District criminal investigation unit, identified the suspect as Lee Aung, 48, temporarily residing at the Royal Palm Hotel on Mabini and Padre Faura streets in Malate, Manila.

Aung's arrest came after Amalia Argarin of No. 13-A Amayan St., Project 3 Quezon City, lodged a complaint before the CPD Station 9 alleging that Lee barged into their house and tried to kill her live-in partner, Chong Won Ho.

Argarin said the incident happened shortly after 7 a.m. on Thursday. Chong sustained head injuries and was brought to the Quezon City Medical Hospital for treatment.

Police were still investigating Lee's motive for attempting to kill his fellow Korean.

Frustrated homicide charges and trespassing would be filed against Lee, police said. *Tricia Bona Pablo*

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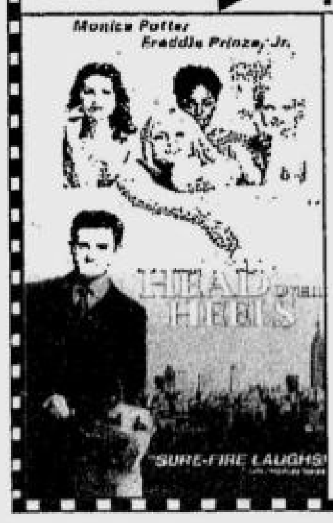
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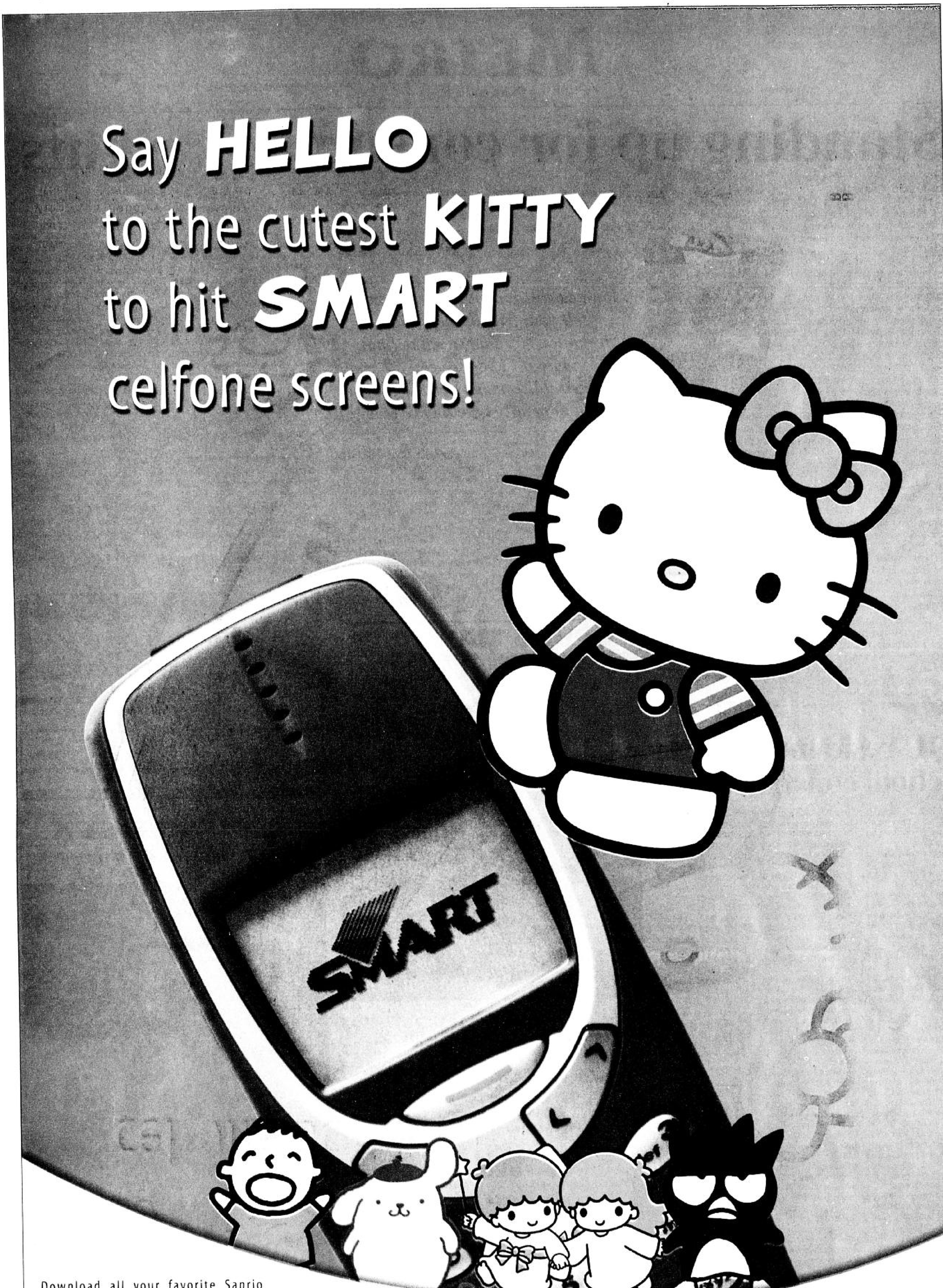
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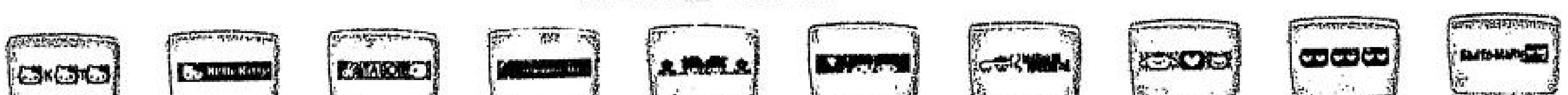
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BUSINESS

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BOOSTING CAPITAL MARKET

SSS to form ₱10-B investment firm

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

STATE-RUN pension fund Social Security System and a foreign fund manager will put up a P10-billion investment company in the next two months to help perk up the local capital markets.

SSS chair and president Vitaliano Nañagas II said the still unnamed joint venture between the SSS and the foreign firm, which he refused to identify, would invest in local stocks and government securities. He said it would also likely take direct equity investments in local companies.

A memorandum of agreement between the SSS and the foreign fund manager would be signed next month, he added.

The SSS and its partner will contribute P5 billion each for the new company's initial investment portfolio. The amount, however, would eventually be more than P10 billion, he said.

"The country's capital requirement is great and we believe that through this joint venture, SSS will be able to help develop the local capital markets," said Nañagas.

SSS has reported a net income of P1.35 billion in the first four months of the year, representing an improvement from its performance in the same period last year.

Nañagas said profits arising from investment earnings reached P5.281 billion or 47 percent more than last year. This more than offset the decline in members' contributions by 7.1 percent. Benefits paid, he said, increased by 19.5 percent.

The SSS chief said the pension fund could again resort to short-term borrowings if it would be necessary to meet operating expenses. For the first time in its 44-year history, SSS last year resorted to borrowing to raise P7.4 billion for its operating expenses.

He said last year's borrowing formed part of a "cash management" strategy which is widely practiced by big companies such as PLDT and San Miguel Corp. Instead of pre-terminating P18.3 billion worth of investments in five- and seven-year government securities, SSS resorted to a short-term, cheaper borrowing.

"SSS even realized a profit of P260.9 million from these transactions because it generated P1.603 billion from the government securities and paid only P1.342 billion for the interest charges of its borrowings," said SSS executive vice president Horace Templo.

Templo said the pension fund was targeting an increase in its collection by 9 percent this year to enhance full-year net earnings.

SSS said that even with the new joint venture, it was planning to remain an active player in the local stock market.

SSS has investments in blue chip stocks like PLDT, Manila Electric Co., SMC and Ayala, as well as in stocks meant for immediate trading.

It holds P600 million worth of investments in Belle Corp. which entitled the pension fund to 1.8 board seats.

SSS owns 23 percent of Equitable PCI Bank and about 4 percent of San Miguel.

Higher sales seen despite demand slump

COMPANY presidents and chief executive officers expect higher sales and profit this year compared to last year despite the expected contraction in market demand.

To improve the business environment in the country, however, the business executives called on the government to curb the bureaucracy and eliminate corruption, which are on top of the business community's list of major concerns.

Thirty two out of the 37 executives polled at a conference on global competitiveness by the Joaquin Cunanan & Co. expressed optimism on their sales prospects despite expectations that reduced consumer demand would be the most severe obstacle they would face this year.

"There is a need for a fresh dose of optimism given the events of the past few weeks. While pessimism is contagious, so is optimism. We hope that collectively, in this conference, we will rekindle our hope in our country and its future," Joaquin Cunanan & Co. chair and senior partner Corazon de la Paz said at the opening of the conference.

The executives' optimism was apparently based on the renewed investor confidence in the local economy under the new administration.

To perk up sales, the executives said their companies intended to spend more on marketing, reduce inventory and work with fewer employees.

The executives identified gross profit as their top priority followed closely by sales. Key action areas to achieve their sales and profits projections include better quality of products and services, focus on core competencies and cost-cutting measures.

The executives, however, expected cash to be tight this year with cash flow named as the second most severe obstacle to their businesses. Receivables was identified as the businessmen's third priority for this year.

By a wide margin, the business leaders polled, advised the government to give top priority to curbing the bureaucracy and eliminating corruption. Coming closely are better infrastructure, transportation and communication, education, poverty alleviation and values transformation.

When queried on their social responsibility programs, the executives placed community relations and environment as their top current involvement. Education and values formation came in a close second while employment programs was a far third.

The conference on global competitiveness was sponsored by Joaquin Cunanan & Co., a member firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers, in association with Six Sigma Consulting.

Of the 103 who participated in the conference, 37 company presidents and CEOs answered the survey.

INDICATORS

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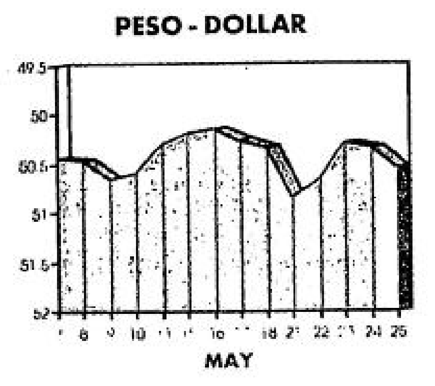

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The US dollar was trading at 120.38 as of 5 p.m., May 25, 2001

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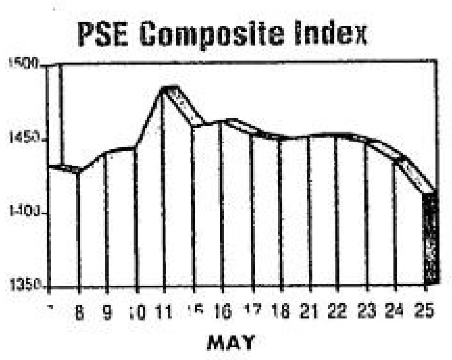
STOCK MARKET

Shares lower

STOCKS yesterday ended down as some foreign brokerages offloaded shares to bring their portfolios in line with the new country weighting in Morgan Stanley Capital International's (MSCI) Indices, traders said.

They added that an absence of news kept trading quiet with activity dominated by a large cross transaction of 69 million shares in Ayala Corp. The block contributed just over half the total turnover. *Reuters*



(See stock market report on Page B3)

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Production index shrinks for third consecutive month

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY's manufacturing volume shrunk for the third consecutive month in March, as the weak economic environment and continuing political uncertainties led to cutbacks in the productive capacity of local firms.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the volume of production index for total manufacturing, the benchmark for the performance of this key sector, dropped by 2 percent to 153.3 in March compared to the same month last year.

But last month's Vopi contraction, based on the NSO's monthly integrated survey on selected industries, already reflected an improvement from the sharper 3- and 2.4-percent slowdown recorded in February and January, respectively.

Despite the general decline in the 16-sector index, robust growth in three key sectors—petroleum refineries, food and beverage—tempered the overall slowdown. As such, the value of production of the manufacturing industry in March still moved up by 8.1 percent compared to the year-ago figure.

Petroleum refineries grew by 25.3 percent and accounted for 51.6 percent of the total production value during the month. Food and tobacco manufacturing rose by 17.2 and 16 percent, respectively, accounting for 27.6 percent and 14.5 percent of total value.

"The growth in these sectors could be attributed mainly to the increased demand of the products in the local and export markets," the NSO report said.

The volume for wearing apparel contracted by 13.4 percent but still accounted for a hefty 35.7 percent of the total production value while non-metallic mineral products, which accounted for 11.1 percent of total value, contracted by a slight one percent.

On the other hand, a major loser in March was the transport equipment manufacturing sector, which had been experiencing production setbacks since October 2000.

"The declines could be attributed to the temporary shutdown and strikes in some sample establishments," the NSO said.

2tradeasia.com analyst Joanne Miguel said the weak manufacturing volume in March and for the whole of the first quarter was reflective of the generally thin demand faced by local producers.

She said the slowdown in production volume might have also been prompted by the piling up of inventories, which the companies were unable to sell during the previous months.

It was in the fourth quarter of 2000 that political uncertainties that threatened the Estrada presidency peaked amid the Juetengate scandal, which linked the former movie actor to illegal gambling.

Estrada was ousted through a people power revolt on Jan. 20.

Miguel also explained that the sharp peso depreciation during the first quarter compared to the period last year was a disincentive to ramp up production for the manufacturers whose raw materials have a high import content.

"For the exporters with import component, aside from the weaker global demand, they have to contend with a volatile exchange rate," she said, noting that the peso averaged around 51 to a dollar in the first quarter compared to 49 to a dollar the same period last year.

First Orient Securities analyst Rolando Pineda, on the other hand, said it was no surprise that manufacturing would be weak in the first quarter given the turmoil at the time.

Gov't shelves $150-M CSFB loan

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance set aside yesterday a plan to borrow some $150 million from US investment bank Credit Suisse First Boston due to disagreements over prices.

Initial terms of the agreement involved a three-year repayment period at 315 basis points above the six-month London interbank rate.

The CSFB loan was supposed to be the first of three agreements that the government planned to enter into to borrow as much as $500 million to cut its projected P145-billion deficit for the year.

The government is scheduled to sign on Monday a $100-million private placement with JP Morgan Chase & Co. that will mature in two years and seven months. The placement was priced at 310 basis points over Libor.

A third placement, involving some $250 million, is expected to be signed in July, this time with HSBC Corp. Although the government has already given HSBC a mandate, the terms of the transaction have yet to be finalized.

Proceeds of the two agreements are expected to come in next week.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza earlier said the government's foreign financing requirement would go down to $80 million after it secures $500 million through private placements.

The country's revised financing plan shows that the government's foreign financing requirement has dropped to $780 million from the original $1.2 billion as the national government has been relying heavily on domestic borrowings so far this year.

Edeza said while the national government was almost fully covered in its required financing, the no-deal roadshow for a possible bond offering would be pushed next month in the United States, Japan and in key European countries.

PNOC cash dividends slump 13.6%

By Ronnel W. Domingo

DUE to Petron Corp.'s losses last year, state-run Philippine National Oil Co. yesterday reported a 13.6-percent decline in cash dividends to the government from P640 million in 1999 to P553 million in 2000.

PNOC president Thelmo Cunanan said in a statement Petron did not declare cash dividends to PNOC owing to its P1.1-billion net loss for that year.

The government has a 40-percent stake in Petron through PNOC.

Petron, the traditional market leader in the local oil industry, was dislodged by closest competitor Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. after the first quarter of the year.

Cunanan also said the firm had remitted to the national coffers P276.5 million, or half its cash dividends for 2000.

He said the company would be ready to remit the remaining half as soon as the Commission on Audit releases its audited financial statement.

Cunanan explained that the previous year's income was "slightly" higher because of income derived from Petron, which posted a P2.4-billion net income in 1999.

The former ambassador and army general also explained that the law required PNOC to declare cash dividends and remit at least 50 percent of the dividends due on or before April 30 of the following year.

He said PNOC's various subsidiaries were also governed by rules provided for by Republic Act 7656.

PNOC's subsidiaries include the PNOC Energy Development Corp., PNOC Exploration Corp., PNOC Coal Corp., PNOC Petrochemical Development Corp., PNOC Shipping and Transport Corp. and Filoil Development and Management Corp.

Cunanan expects this year's income to surpass that of the previous year.

PNOC-EC has a 10-percent stake in the $2.4-billion Malampaya deep water gas to power project, which is expected to start production by October this year.

With 2.6 trillion cubic feet of gas in reserve, the Malampaya gasfield is expected to yield $9 billion in royalties to the government over the next 20 years on top of PNOC-EC's share in the consortium.

Project operator Shell Philippines Exploration BV and Texaco Philippines each hold a 45-percent share in the project.

Plan there

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

"AWESOME" is the word to describe the great things that have happened to our economy lately. In only four months, for example, our government was able to fill up all Cabinet positions. This impossible, death-defying feat made a lot of people happy.

That's why, early this month, they showed their happiness by staging a mini riot near Malacañang. Having a complete Cabinet is the next best thing to knowing what we want to do with our poor economy. At least, we know who to blame. Or fry.

Anyway, it seems our government made a big leap in forming an economic plan. Everybody, including foreign investors, is dying to see the leche flan, este, economic plan. Die no more! Word is out, we already have . . . well, its "introduction."

* * *

BASED on a recent report on a rare sighting of the economic plan still in the making, part of the intro reads: "Dubious governance under the deposed President brought a marked slowdown of the economy in the fourth quarter of 2000 . . ." You know—plunder?

Obviously, the intro refers to the man named Band . . . Wrist Band. Correct me if I'm always right, but his "dubious governance" has been in place since July 1998. Such dubiousness took its toll on the economy all in one freaking single quarter. Is that it?

Come on, Simon, if that's the kind of economic plan we are going to have, I think I'm just going to emigrate to Oberammergau. Forgodsakes, it's an economic plan, and we don't have to be defensive or paranoid in it. Let's keep politics out of something for once.

* * *

JUST believe me on this one, will you, because between us girls, Wrist Band already lost the will to make a comeback. The man already gave up! I know, for instance, that one of his main concerns nowadays is, really, for his captors not to make his life in jail hard.

All right, if you insist on playing politics, consider that, whether this cute administration likes it or not, someday soon, Gloriaetta must face us on her own merits and not on somebody else's faults. It may be as early as May 2004, who knows.

That happens to be our usual election month. By that time, Gloriaetta can no longer use the previous "dubious" administration for its punching bag cum shock absorber. Thanks to a bad economic plan, Gloriaetta will then be the center of attention.

* * *

YET, the introduction of that still-in-the-making economic plan says that our economy is doing poorly because of: (1) bad governance; and (2) high budget deficit. We all know that's debatable, at the very least, or just outright bull.

Let's say our poor economic showing is due to bad or dubious or, well, maybe even "horny" governance. Why the hell are things not any different now that the governance is supposed to be already good and credible and virginal?

Because it's a trend, that's why. You don't get out of it by having an unscheduled change in administration. If the plan blames it all on bad governance, it should look back earlier than the last quarter of 2000. We never had any good governance, period.

* * *

JUST look at some figures presented by Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, head of the Ayala group, in a recent business conference. "Regardless of where the blame lies," he said, "this is the picture we now all face." Amen.

In the first quarter of this cute administration, foreign investments amounted to P906 million. In the same period last year, meaning, that was still under the crude administration, they reached P3.73 billion.

Nine companies had expansion projects worth P1.6 billion in the past quarter of good governance. Some 327 companies invested P40 billion in the same period of dubious governance last year. And they said we only had to kick somebody out of office.

* * *

UNTIL my government explains those figures to me, I will become senile believing that, despite our country being in a hurry to move forward, so much so that some three million jobless are becoming restless, our government takes its sweet time to do something.

I once asked Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo about this cute administration's economic plan. I even went to his house. In his position, he was the recognized economic point man of our country. He told me I was being impatient.

That was a month well into this administration. Some more months later today, whadayano, we have an intro to the economic plan which was seen less number of times than the abominable snowman.

With or without the pending case of plunder, it does not take that long to update the existing plan, is it? Really, can somebody tell me how long it takes to copy a plan here or there or anywhere?

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Insular Life posts modest gains despite weak peso, slowdown

THE INSULAR Life Assurance Co. Inc. and its subsidiaries booked modest gains last year, with revenues inching up by P100 million from P7.5 billion in 1999 to P7.6 billion.

It was a creditable performance, said Insular Life chair and president Vicente Ayllon, given the volatile situation where "many businesses had to perform a balancing act to stay afloat."

In a report during the company's annual meeting on Wednesday, Ayllon said the year 2000 was a very difficult year, with the peso falling to 54 to a dollar, the stock market hitting record lows, unemployment rate deteriorating from 9.7 percent to 11.2 percent, and gross domestic product slowing to 3.6 percent from 4.9 percent in the fourth quarter.

These negative factors exacted a heavy toll on many businesses including Insular Life, the first and largest Filipino life insurance firm. Insular Life saw its consolidated income declining by 22 percent from P459 million in 1999 to P359 million in 2000 because of weak market conditions, particularly in the real estate and equity markets.

There were bright spots, however, in the generally weak landscape, Ayllon said. Life insurance premium income contributed P5.2 billion, or 68 percent of total revenues. Meanwhile, consolidated assets grew by 2 percent to P29.1 billion.

Insular Life also paid its policyholders (for both life and non-life insurance) a total of P2.2 billion in benefits, the same level as that in 1999.

The company has moved to its new corporate headquarters in Alabang and is completing work on the Insular Life Village, a housing project for employees in Biñan, Laguna.

Among its subsidiaries, Insular Life Health Care (I-Care) achieved a remarkable feat by chalking up a net income of P2.8 million last year. I-Care implemented clinic-based operations in Makati as well as the preferred hospital plan, which allowed lower rates without sacrificing service. Servicing the health care needs of its members are 3,200 medical and dental specialists in more than 3,200 accredited medical and dental specialists in 320 hospitals' clinics and laboratories all over the country.

Insular Life's financial subsidiaries also eked out gains amid the harsh economic and political climate. Insular Investment and Trust Corp. increased its managed assets by 8.2 percent. The fund level of the money market division rose by 41 percent while its average monthly trading volume surged by 22 percent. Insular Life Savings and Trust Co., the group's banking arm, had its resources growing by 8.7 percent to P3.5 billion, and deposits expanding by 10.8 percent to P2.5 billion.

Insular General Insurance Co. focused on profitable, retainable lines. It culled its portfolio of some unprofitable jumbo corporate accounts to trim its losses.

Ayllon also reported the company's decision to remain a mutual company amid the global trend toward demutualization or conversion from a mutual to a stock company. Insular Life's management had considered demutualization as a vehicle for strategic alliances that could bring in expertise in product development, information technology and distribution, but concluded it could access all of these even without a change in structure.

Rising costs, peso weakness seen dampening Nestle sales

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

NESTLE Philippines Inc. has warned that the rising cost of imported milk inputs and the weakening peso could spoil its bid to sustain sales growth this year.

Nestle Philippines chair and chief executive Juan Santos said the company had already raised its retail prices twice this year by 14 percent to make up for soaring world prices of milk solids—the main ingredient for powdered and liquid milk products—and the peso's weakness.

Nestle Philippines imports all of its milk solids that account for more than half of its production cost.

Santos said while consumers were virtually unaffected by the first 7-percent increase early this year, he was concerned that a recent 7-percent hike could affect consumer preference.

He said should the market react negatively to the change in retail prices, Nestle Philippines would have to change its marketing strategy by selling more goods in smaller packages. This, he said, could impact heavily on the firm's bottom line.

Milk sales account for more than half of Nestle Philippines' P40-billion annual turnover.

Santos said he expected sales volume to increase by 5 percent this year following last year's better-than-expected performance.

He said the company expected sales to be flat this year due to a sluggish domestic economy and worsening political crisis. Turnover remained robust by eking out a 5-percent growth by end-2000, he said.

Nestle Philippines raised its prices by 4 percent last year, the first time it adjusted its prices since January 1998.

Nestle Philippines is investing some P3 billion in its Cabuyao and Cagayan de Oro plants within the next two years in its bid to make the country its supply center for infant nutrition and filled milk products in Southeast Asia.

Santos said the company chose to locate its Southeast Asian milk factory in the Philippines because of the country's productivity.

"We want to make a statement that the Philippines is not just a place where foreign businessmen could sell their goods but also where they could profitably run their regional factories," he said.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, May 25, 2001)

STOCK	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	150,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	75.5	75.5	75	75.5	464,200
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	24,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	214	214	211	213	43,600
Prudential Bank	450	470	450	470	840
Philippine National Bank	51	51	47	47.5	109,600
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	102,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	247	250	247	250	100
Manulife Financial Corp.	1290	1295	1290	1295	2,830
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1080	1090	1080	1090	15,800
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	41	41	41	41	6,700
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	1,050,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	685	685	680	685	6,380
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	160,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	241,000
Piltel	0.47	0.47	0.44	0.44	1,670,000
Philstar.Com Inc.	1	1	1	1	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	680	680	665	670	118,100
Ivantage Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	10,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.045	0.045'	0.043	0.044	88,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	42	43.5	42	42	230,500
Manila Electric Co. B	57	60.5	56.5	60.5	1,733,700
Petron Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.9	1.9	4,552,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.89	0.9	0.89	0.9	40,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	38,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.04	2.04	1.92	2	10,058,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.36	0.41	0.36	0.41	310,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	30,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	10,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.42	1.46	1.4	1.46	456,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	458,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.12	2.12	1,602,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3	3.25	3	3.25	870,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	255,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	27.5	28	27.5	28	77,000
Pancake House Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	10,000
RFM Corp.	1	1.04	1	1.04	300,000
Swift Food Inc.	1	1	1	1	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46	46	46	46	35,300
San Miguel Corp. B	49.5	50.5	49.5	50.5	765,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	7	7	7	7	1,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	10,000
Ayala Corp.	7.5	7.6	7.1	7.1	74,985,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.13	0.24	0.13	0.24	70,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.46	1.5	1.42	1.48	3,830,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12	12.25	11.75	11.75	1,700
A. Soriano Corp.	0.4	0.45	0.4	0.45	2,140,000
APC Group Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.24	110,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.38	1.42	1.38	1.4	3,962,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	130,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	1,600,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24.75	24.75	24.5	24.75	394,500
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	200,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000
Ionics Inc.	12	12.25	12	12	16,000
Ipeople Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	50,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.04	2.04	2	2	264,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	20,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.77	0.77	0.76	0.76	280,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.49	1,970,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	1,100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	180,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	5,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	30,000
Metro Alliance Holdings-B	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	10,000
Music Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	174,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	100,000
Pryce Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.5	14.75	14.5	14.75	49,300
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.46	0.47	0.44	0.47	150,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.46	1,110,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.45	0.45	150,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc	0.19	0.21	0.19	0.21	160,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	40.5	40.5	40.5	40.5	62,500
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref.	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	26,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	695	695	695	695	100
Jollibee Warrants	13	13	13	13	25,000
Macroasia Corp. Warrants	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.003	0.0028	0.003	5,000,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.034	0.035	0.033	0.033	49,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.1	5.1	6,631,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	60,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.31	5,870,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.31	0.32	9,530,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.12	2.12	2.06	2.08	8,043,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.22	0.22	0.14	0.14	40,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.4	6,169,000
Zipporah Rlty Hldgs Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	42,640,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	4,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	5,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	17,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	4,090,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.225	5,410,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	20,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.02	4,500,000
Interport Res.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	18,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	2,500,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	400,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	20,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	913,270	72,891,260.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	262,008,980	884,006,370.00
PRO	79,283,000	109,077,160.00
Mining	35,520,000	2,181,300.00
OIL	28,420,000	243,500.00
GRAND TOTALS:	406,145,250	1,068,399,590.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	601.65	DOWN 4.53
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,953.56	DOWN 16.20
PRO	529.67	DOWN 25.40
Mining	1,215.18	DOWN 4.38
OIL	1.46	DOWN 0.02
All Shares Index	756.68	DOWN 4.42
Composite	1,410.23	DOWN 24.45

NO. OF ADVANCES: 21; NO. OF DECLINES: 48; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 40;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 109; NO. OF TRADES: 2,976

CURRENCIES

May25, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.166725	1.000000	50.2870
Japan	Yen	0.009733	0.008342	0.4195
United Kingdom	Pound	1.643682	1.408800	70.8443
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.149586	0.128210	6.4473
Switzerland	Franc	0.656275	0.562493	28.2861
Canada	Dollar	0.754283	0.646496	32.5103
Singapore	Dollar	0.648195	0.555568	27.9378
Australia	Dollar	0.604239	0.517893	26.0433
Bahrain	Dinar	3.094926	2.652661	133.3944
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.311135	0.266674	13.4102
Brunei	Dollar	0.646027	0.553710	27.8444
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000088	0.0044
Thailand	Baht	0.025694	0.022022	1.1074
UAE	Dirham	0.317700	0.272301	13.6932
Korea	Won	0.000909	0.000779	0.0392
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.857100	43.1010
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.438228	22.0372
France	Franc	0.152450	0.130664	6.5707
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.388935	19.5584
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.062288	3.1323
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021247	1.0684
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000443	0.0223
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.144154	7.2491
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004275	0.2150
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005151	0.2590
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021247	1.0684
Ireland	Punt	1.269739	1.088293	54.7270

Gov't spearheads creation of asset management firm

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE MACAPAGAL administration has agreed to take the lead in the creation of an asset management company to be owned jointly by the state and the private sector to help sell more than P245 billion worth of the banking sector's bad loans.

Vitaliano Nañagas II, chair and president of the Social Security System, will head the company. He, however, clarified that the pension fund would not be involved in the management company.

"We will, together with the private sector, put up an AMC that will facilitate and broker the sale of assets of companies that have stopped operating. This management company will not acquire any of these assets," said Nañagas.

The SSS chief said he had discussed the creation of a new company with outgoing Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo who, in turn, secured the approval of Malacañang.

The first prospective project of the new company could be National Steel Corp. but that is if the government would fail to strike a deal with Swiss steel trader and manufacturer Glencore International AG.

At least 14 creditors of National Steel and Glencore have agreed to create a special purpose vehicle that would jointly undertake the rehabilitation of the steel company.

The combined exposure of the 14 banks to NSC originally amounted to P12.22 billion but this has grown to P19 billion as of September last year due to interest charges and the depreciation of the peso.

Nañagas said the AMC would be willing to help dispose of National Steel's assets. He said the steel plant could be sold distinctly from the power plant and the real estate.

"We are looking for assets that can be re-valued properly so they can be re-mobilized and generate jobs, attract investments and create a new output," he said.

The government intends to create a board of advisers to help the asset management company.

The government's presence in the management company was meant to ensure that policies would be properly coordinated to help the AMC achieve its purpose, said Nañagas.

For instance, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas had tightened its rules on how banks should treat their foreclosed assets to force them to dispose of their real and other properties owned or acquired or Ropoa instead of keeping these idle assets in their books.

The BSP will soon impose a 10-percent provisioning requirement on banks for foreclosed assets starting the first year that these assets were re-possessed and were categorized into non-performing assets.

Current rules allow banks to keep their non-performing assets for five years and impose the 10-percent provisioning only on the sixth year.

Romulo said the government would not shell out a single cent to put up the new company.

The idea is to clean the banks' balance sheets, transfer their bad loans to the AMC.

Of the total bank loans that have become past due, the biggest are National Steel's P16 billion, Pilipino Telephone Corp.'s P13 billion, Uniwide's P11.1 billion and Victoria's Milling Co.'s P3 billion.

Of the various NPL restructuring programs in Asia, Thailand has been the most successful so far after it sold about 40 percent of its total bad loans. Indonesia has so far sold only 5 percent of its NPLs.

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of **PhilWeb.Com Inc.** were Roberto Ongpin, Jaime Gonzalez, Alex Villamar, Mario Locsin, Savio Chow, Consuelo Madrigal, Paul Cheng, Thomas Tang, Fung Ka Bun, Ronald Arculli, Jesus Cabarrus Jr., Jose Miguel Cabarrus, Jose Mari Moraza, Sheridan Tatsuno and Alan Batkin.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **William, Gothong & Aboitiz Inc.** were Victor Chiongbian, Bob Gothong, Enrique Aboitiz Jr., Benjamin Gothong, William Joseph Chiongbian II, Jon Ramon Aboitiz, Erramon Aboitiz, Washington Sycip, Manuel Manalac and Eusebio Tan.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **San Miguel Properties Inc.** were Francisco Eizmendi Jr., Faustino Galang, Ferdinand Constantino, Lorenzo Tan, Elmer Santos, Anacleto Bandril and Ricardo Yabut.

* * *

REPUBLIC Glass Holding Corp. denied having any information that could explain the unusual 49.47-percent increase in its share price.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.** were Federico Garcia, Peter Garrucho, Alberto Lopez, Augusto Almeda Lopez, Eugenio Lopez III, Manuel Lopez, Manuel Lopez Jr., Oscar Lopez, Federico Lopez, Roberto de Ocampo and Presentacion Psinakis. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

ORACLE CEO MEETS ASIAN E-BUSINESS LEADERS

Oracle chair and CEO Larry Ellison (second from left) and company executive vice president for Asia Pacific Derek Williams (right) met with 10 senior Asian executives, including two leaders in Philippine eBusiness, in Hong Kong recently. The two Filipinos in the meeting were (extreme left) Felipe Yap, chair of Yapster eConglomerate, and (third from left) Lucio "Bong" Tan Jr., chair of Unifize.

PNB to sell property holding company

THE PHILIPPINE National Bank expects to generate P55 million from the planned sale of its property holding company Philmay Holdings this year.

PNB president Feliciano Miranda Jr. said the bank also planned to sell Bulauan Mining Co., a subsidiary of the bank, to raise additional funds.

PNB last year registered P600 million in extraordinary earnings from the sale of its minority stake in Maybank Phils to its Malaysian joint venture partners.

PNB was hard pressed to look for other sources of income to reverse a staggering P5.97 billion in net losses on the back of write-offs and bad debts amounting to P6.6 billion.

Meanwhile, Miranda disclosed that the bank received four proposals from international financial institutions to help PNB dispose of its bad assets. These include the Bank of America, Lehman Brothers, ING Barings and Arthur Andersen.

PNB is currently maintaining acquired assets worth P25 billion.

Out of its total loan portfolio of P80 billion, 41 percent was considered non-performing loans.

In its scheduled shareholders' meeting on Tuesday, Miranda is expected to report an improvement in the bank's capital to liability ratio to 11.9 percent compared to only 5.8 percent in 1999.

This was attributed to the infusion last year of P10.3 billion in fresh funds by the group of taipan Lucio Tan.

"The improvement in its capital ratio provides depositors and creditors additional protection which is crucial to the maintenance of confidence in the stability of PNB," the bank said in a statement.

In reaction to an INQUIRER story yesterday, Miranda stressed that PNB's bad loans reached only 41 percent, not 50 percent, as of end-April.

This, he said, represented a slight increase from the 40 percent NPL ratio as of March 23.

INQUIRER's report yesterday was based on a PricewaterhouseCoopers audit conducted in March to April this year.

PNB lost P4.00 to end at P47.50. The stock market main index slid 24.45 points, or 1.7 percent, to close at 1,410.23 points.

GOINGS-ON

PNB, Destiny sign pact

THE PHILIPPINE National Bank and Destiny Satellite Corp. have signed an agreement governing the bank's network configuration upgrade project.

Under the project, the bank's nationwide online network will be clustered into 19 telecom nodes.

Destiny Satellite, one of the first local telecom carriers to introduce the use of broadband satellite and cable technology in the country, provides the project with high-speed VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) and HFC (Hybrid Fiber-Coax) links to PNB's Financial Center Complex. The nodes will have seamless integration of data & voice traffic, thus accommodating multi-protocol traffic. It also included the provisioning of alternate and redundant links for higher reliability.

The agreement was signed by PNB president Feliciano L. Miranda Jr. and Destiny Satellite Corp.'s David S. Lim.

Destiny has been providing VSAT and Broadband services to 38 percent of the PNB domestic branches since the second half of 1999.

Meridian joins CommAsia

MERIDIAN Telekoms, the country's pioneering Internet telecommunications company, is showcasing its wireless broadband technology in CommAsia 2001 (Telecommunications' Broadcast, Electronics, Information Technology and E-Commerce Exhibition) which runs from May 24 to 26 at the World Trade Center.

Meridian has put up a 36-square meter cyber lounge that offers free Internet service in a relaxing atmosphere.

CommAsia 2001, the most comprehensive communications event to be organized in the country, was organized by the Philippine Electronics and Telecommunications Federation, which guarantees support from more than 120 corporate and regular members, 17 association members and 16 associate members.

Naphtha plan proponents told to firm up blueprint

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is threatening to drop its plan to lobby in Asean for a deferment of the tariff reduction on petrochemical products unless industry players firm up their investment commitment to the proposed $700-million naphtha cracker project in the country.

The DTI is upset that petrochemical companies have not signed a new memorandum of agreement that will outline their equity sharing arrangement and the construction program for the naphtha cracker more than a year after announcing their intent.

A DTI official said the undue delay in finalizing the naphtha cracker project indicated the inability of the players to raise the cash to finance the project and to agree on a common plan.

A DTI official said the previous MOA signed by the Philippine National Oil Co. Petrochemical Development Corp., Petrochemical Corp. of Asia-Pacific, Bataan Polyethylene Corp., Philippine Resins Industries Inc., Mabuhay Vinyl Corp., JG Summit Petrochemical Corp., and Sumitomo Corp. of Japan has expired last March. The group was supposed to firm up their commitment before the MOA lapsed.

The DTI is giving the consortium up to October this year before it goes to the Asean to seek the support of other Asean countries to extend the tariff protection on polymers or base materials for plastic products.

Duties on polymers are scheduled to go down to 5 percent by 2003 in line with the start of the Asean Free Trade Area wherein duties on intra-Asean trade should be kept to within 5 percent to zero percent. The industry is batting to maintain high tariff walls on polymers (15 percent) for the next 10 years.

Based on initial plans, the proposed naphtha cracker will be put up in Bataan with a capacity of 350,000 to 500,000 metric tons annually which is enough to meet present demand and future increases. The consortium should finish the naphtha cracker by 2002 or 2003 in time for the start of Afta.

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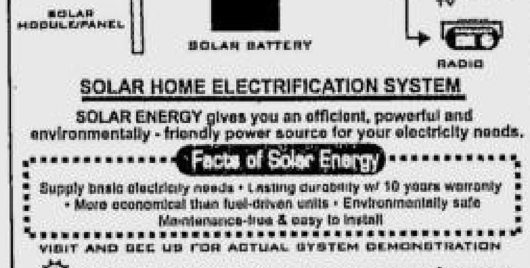

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•2 Parking Spaces
•All Utilities are built-in features
Contact: Janet 723-5808 • 524-2544

Salcedo Vil 1BR FF + PS P3.5M 911-7940

MANDALUYONG

Various Wack-Wack Condo Lee Gardens 5346610 Jojo

Wack2 Tower 2BR FF P6M 911-7940

PARANAQUE

BF PQ 3BR/TB MDS RM-TB 1car P3.5 911-7940

Nice TH BF Resort Vil Las Pinas 1.6M 911-7940

PASAY

SOMERSET Condo Pasay RUSH SALE -2BR, ocean view, very clean, 5 minutes from LaSalle, with big covered parking for 2 cars P3.2M(neg), Brokers Welcome Call Rolly Tel#:522-6887;522-1633

PASIG

Nr Ultra & Valle Verde 3BR Pkg Nice 3M 681-2457

PASIG HAMPTON RAYMUNDO 2BR 14T CALL 641-7760/61

Pioneer Hilands 3BR Pkg 114m² East VW 681-2457

Rush! Renaissance 2000 DBO 2br+2tb 09178143792

QUEZON CITY

C-5 Mindanao Ave 680T & Up / Unit 3yrs to pay 0% Int 9256340 / 09185079799

CUBAO Condo P1.3"EZ"term rent to own swap lot car 9120647 9124428 4381161

Nice TH Grace Vil LA158 FA278M² P9M 911-7940

Nr. Ateneo 3BR 3TB 80m² Pkg Slot 2.5M • 433-6873

TSora 3BR+1md 2TB P2.5M 2cgrge DBO 0917-8143792

OTHER AREAS

For Sale/Rent, 1BR, 2Bath, Condo,Swim,Park'g, w/ Salon,Play G,Laundry,24 hrs. Sec.,Nice View,Grocery-Frntng Heritage Hotel EDSA DEL (045)961-5213 NONOY 0917-4394689

MEMORIAL LOT

Holycross 4lots 6556284

Rush Loy-M 2Lot 8386652

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2BR GRG nr B'dla 15T 8443622

MANILA

Very Private with Parking 8000M Call 5634421 or see 2256 Adonis Pand

MARIKINA

nr Ateneo 2BR 1TB grge Montevista P8,500 6819583

PASAY

4BR APT NR ROXAS BLVD & BUENDIA 20T/MO 7412382

QUEZON CITY

29Manhattan St. 8.5T 2br 1tb &12T 2br2tb7214304

2BR 23 D. Tirona Project 4 QC nr P. Tuazon T9125969

2BR 56 Waling Waling St., Roxas Dist. Call 371-3205

L6 B15 Greg Sling new Cap. Estate P10T/Mo Liza 4112323/3716069

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

S'dio 4 2 4th T4331446

SAN JUAN

111 Hoover San Juan 2BR 1TB 1Park P12T T-7244645

HOUSE

ALABANG

Alabang 3BR Mds/Rm 4TB 8265861 9127227 9127229

MAKATI

NEW house for Rent/Res/ Clinic/Ofc Kamagong Mkt Tel 8995206/8991883

MANILA

2BR Sn Andres T-5643097

PARANAQUE

2 Stry. w/ Fence 3BR 1TB 1Grge w/ Water Pump Tank -- Don Galo nr. Coastal Road Quirino Ave. 631-2892/ 0919-5653954 or Pager 141-639990 -- Julie

BN HL Multinall LA480m² FA400m² P15M 911-7940

Duplex LA183m² 3BR P3.8M 911-7940

QUEZON CITY

3BR 4TB Nr FEU Hosp Nr Clubhouse Victorian Hts Tel. 938-1896 Secured Location

NR UP DILIMAN 5243126

PROVINCIAL

4-BR Res Hse. 2-CR. H2O Pump,Garage,Pacita Complex San Pedro, Laguna 6981430/ (0917)7908266 Luz/Orly

CONDO/TWNHSE

ALABANG

Furn 3BR5TB Sauna Pool Gym 3Carpark 20thFlr Aspen T. 200sqm P105T/mo Bay View 8072676 w/Tels.1Yr.Adv.

MAKATI

1BR Furn South Str Plz 844-7524

2BR fur w/tel/pkg/ref/aircon H2O Heater P18T 8978695

Princeville 3BR 2TB FF Tel Parking 100m² 8522262

MANDALUYONG

Studio 1Br & 2Br units with the fl. features: sprinkler system, smoke detectors, 24-hr security garbage chute, elevator and ample parking spaces. weekdays: #532-1015 saturdays: #532-0936

PASIG

Ortigas Condos 1-3BRS Furnsh or VF 681-2457

QUEZON CITY

33 NARRA PROJ. 3 9201387

QC Twnhse Class 4BR 3TB Acsble P15Thouse 9328965

T-HSE NR. G'HILLS 3BR & TB w/ Tel. 2 to 3 Car Grg. Call 722-0261 Anna

PROVINCIAL

Townhouse 2-BR,2-CR,Parking Area, Villa de Calamba 6981430 /(0917)7908266 Luz

FOR LEASE

Comm'l Space Ortigas Ave. Ext. Cainta 228m² 655-8617

STUDIO-TYPE
Prince David Condo
frnt Ateneo P10,000 (bare) or 14,000 (furnished)
Contact Jo at
6578146/9205437/ 09175218862

ROOM & BOARD

Male Pro. w/ CR Furn East Ave 09173943630/ 9257857

BEDSPACE

BEDSPACE • T641-7760/61

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

BUSINESS RENTAL

Comm'l Space 4 Rent
60m² 2nd/Flr Billiard Rm. Off 30m² 1st/Flr Good 4 Off /Store/Parlor Call 532-6483

P1,800/mo Stalls
Malate 400-6420/23
San Pedro Laguna 808-6006/07

SHAW PASIG 12-1200M² OFC DISPLAY WHSE 641-7760/61

RESORT

BAGUIO VACATION
Iggy's Inn & Restaurant Daily Weekly Monthly Rates Acpt.Package Tour Call Rhoda Tel. 8264167

Beach Prop w/ nice Nipa Huts P8.3M 911-7940

PansolHotSpring Prvt 776-7507

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

KIA

Besta P240T Neg.
671-3535 • 733-2507
Cell. 0917-8472716

MERCEDES

79 123Gas 120T 8974641

C220 AUTO BLCK 722-2222

TOYOTA

'99 GLI A/T 245T 631-3649

Toyota 96 Mdl XL Red Mileage 66Tkm P220 Call 534-6610

VAN/PICK-UP

MB VAN '96 Model P385T Call 8095526 & 28 ofc hr 8422150 after ofc hr

OTHER CAR BRANDS

'99 G'Coach 450T 631-3649

BOATS

BOAT-Catamaran
U.S. materials w/carpeted deck and B.B.Q.
Great for scuba drivers or family use
UNSINKABLE - P650.000 00
Contact Ray at tel. 752-4623 or 0918-9167396

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

BrdalMB/Vans 9296250/4535288

H-100/Honda 9207360

HiAce L300 Urvan 8257135

IT/ Hiace 9136710/4333682

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

L300 VV (Roger) 578-8917

UDrive Carsvans 8006595

Van A1Con 09173943630/ 9257857 2T for 8hr w/Drivr.

PARTS & ACCESSORIES

FREE CHECK UP! 8am-7pm
Bridgestone, Goodyear
Motolite, Mobil Oil
Align, EFI Tuneup, Brakes
Steering, Underchasis
30-120 days guarantee
Rubbervolt 115Mindnao QC
36 West Ave. QC 3716783

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523-24

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523-24

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 3670169

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines

KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

PHILIPPINES 2000
Sama Sama sa DECS

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports is inviting all interested parties to submit two (2) copies of bids in sealed envelope subject to the General Terms and Conditions in the sale on "AS IS WHERE IS" basis. Bids will be received and opened by the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) on June 6, 2001, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, ULTRA Complex, Pasig City, in the presence of the bidders or their duly authorized representatives.

1 unit Motor Vehicle, FORD EXPEDITION
XLT 4x4 8 Cylinder
Model 2000
Color: Black

Bid forms may be obtained from PBAC Secretariat Office, Mabini Building, Room 112-A, ULTRA Complex, Pasig City during office hours.

BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect contained thereto and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) ERNESTO S. PANGAN
Undersecretary
Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PDI -- May 26, 27 & 28, 2001)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

Lab Poodle Minpin Pups 9976469/9112099/9123985

UPPERMOST DOG SCHOOL train,home/boarding,offr., #09197219020/09193419012

SPORTING GOODS

Billiard 23T 25T & 30T New Accept C.Card • 781-9453

B.Table B'New/Accessories (02)801-4494/802-0566

Imported Billiard 22T, 35T complete acc's. 8618714 to 16 / 8613123 / 8613125

STRIKEMASTER
Bowling & Billiards
Sales & Rentals T-9341569

TOYS

ADULT TOYS
ENLARGER•VIBRATOR
6578275•09173698873

WANTED TO BUY

B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T8342886

Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
ROLEX
Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

WE BUY ROLEX
5633742 5646593 09174383744

WE BUY GOLD
CALL: 8390002 8390004
09173751620/917360324

MISCELLANEOUS

June 2 Garage Sale
28 13th Avenue, cubao

RISOGRAPH MACHINES
Very Good Condition
Slightly used
Call : 831-4327
515-0537

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Exp. Taxi Driver 635-3503

FEMALE

2Canteen Girl A'A 9122223

Manicurist
Bruno's Barbers 631-9979

Med Tech S.F Lic 250 +ALLW TEL 7111967/7126452 2640 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz Mla.

Nurse Non-Board Passers P250/8hrs 141-998692

WTD: Eng. Spk Yaya/H.Maids & Int'l Fam. Cook 660-4569

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City 1100, Philippines, Telephone 925-2401

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bid for one (1) unit: Gas Sterilizer, non-toxic

Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding. List of requirements to be submitted:

1. Letter of intent
2. Article of Incorporation and by-laws
3. Business License
4. Financial Statement (last 2 years)
5. ITR for the last 2 years
6. Location map of office
7. DOH Accreditation
8. List of clients and contact person
9. Product list with certificate of exclusive distributorship and brochure
10. Certificate of trainings for service engineers
11. Notarized certificate of authority to sign and represent the company
12. Certificate of major parts availability

All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before June 16, 2001 at Purchasing Division.

The PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s

(Sgd) ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI -- May 25, 26, 27, June 1, 2 & 3, 2001)

FOR SALE

- One (1) Cargo Vessel, with hydraulically-operated McGregor hatch cover, all-steel, 1,250 MT cargo capacity; 1,300 HP w/o crane
- One (1) Cargo Vessel, with hydraulically-operated Erman hatch cover, all steel; 1,450 MT cargo capacity; 1,600 HP with crane mounted on board
- One (1) Tug Boat, 700 HP
- **ALL UNITS ARE IN GOOD-OPERATING CONDITION.**
- **Offer entertained on or before May 31, 2001 only.**

OTHERS:

- One (1) unit Cargo Vessel, approx. 1,100 MT Non-operational
- One (1) unit Tug Boat, 450 HP Non-operational

FOR INQUIRY, please call or send offer to any of the following: MIKE, BOBBY or COLLY at 032-3468956, 032-3469819 or fax to 032-3460605, 032-3462002.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

Card Sales Agents Telemarketers Needed Call Ayel at 914-3413 /14 12-4PM Only

Leading Hybrid-Seed supplier needs Secretary /Accountant/Bookkeeper Interested candidate contact Tel 810-3055 (Rose)

CARE GIVER T5280722

★ IMMIGRATE ★
Live & Work in Australia & Canada 8175511/8944950

OFC STAFF 9134470 REY

•OFC Staff 9134470 Aynah

Part Time SALES 731-2206

PASIG SCHL NEEDS TEACHERS 6556918 SHEILA

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

4Sale Clothes Shop Rush QC Very Comm'l T435-3731

A Highly Unique European Product, Looking for Distributors. Please Email: benho@sing.com.sg

IDLE Funds? 09179177130 •8082702@20%ROI; 3 months

RTW Cash/Consign 373-8821

TShirt Sale 4383147

Work From Home 8937903

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late ENRIQUE M. BRODETH was settled extrajudicially by an Affidavit of Self-Adjudication by the sole heir, as per Doc. No 605, Page No. 40, Book No II, Series of 2001 of Quezon City Notary Public Atty Arturo M. Martin.
(PDI-May 19, 26 & Jun 2, '01)

Notice is hereby given that the following certificates of stocks in the name of ROSITO C. MANHIT have been declared lost 1 share Quezon City Sports Club, 1 share Valley Golf and Country Club, 1 share Valle Verde Country Club and 2 Security Bank Stock Certificates Numbers 188 & 331.
(PDI-May 12,19& 26, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given of the loss of Immigration Certificate of Residence No. 229588 issued by the Bureau of Immigration to Tomas T. Cheng, said certificate was lost January 10, 2001.
PDI- May 26, 2001

PERSONAL

Make 3 Wishes 1 Business 2 Impossible Pray 9 Hail Mary's for 9 days on the 9th day put out this ad & your wishes will come true. Thank you Holy Spirit - OLC

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

ANNOUNCEMENT OF TENDER

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be conducting sealed tenders on **31 May 2001** at 1:00 PM at the **FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER BUILDING FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila**, among NFA accredited government corporations/ institutions and Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) accredited international traders/suppliers for the supply of minimum 10,000 MT up to maximum of 54,087 MT raw cane or white cane refined sugar (fines) of any specific origin representing the Philippines' minimum access volume (MAV) allocation for the year 2001 under the following terms:

1. SPECIFICATIONS
   A. **Raw Cane Sugar (VHP)** - Of fair average quality of the current crop in bulk with **Very High Polarization (VHP)** minimum of 98.50 degrees, maximum of 99.40 degrees at the time of shipment and inspection at the loadport;
   B. **White Cane Refined Sugar (Fines)** - Minimum polarization of 99.80 degrees, maximum color 45 ICUMSA-units and maximum moisture content of 0.06%;
2. ARRIVAL PERIOD

	NOT LATER THAN	
VARIETY	JULY	AUGUST
A. Raw Cane Sugar	10,000 MT min. 54,087 MT max	10,000 MT min. 54,087 MT max.
B. White Cane Refined	10,000 MT min. 54,087 MT max.	10,000 MT min. 54,087 MT max.

3. PRICE OFFER

Interested offerors are required to submit price offers for both raw and white cane refined sugar as per arrival schedule from any specific origin and to be quoted in US$/MT, CFR, FO, based on the following modes of payment:

1. **Irrevocable at sight Letter of Credit**
2. **Irrevocable usance Letter of Credit, 180 days after B/L date**

SRA accredited international traders/suppliers are required to submit a bid bond equivalent 10% of the total offered price in the form of Cashier's check; Manager's check, demand draft in USD issued/drawn from a reputable Metro Manila bank or an irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit issued by a reputable bank domiciled in the Philippines valid for 120 days from date of bidding. On the other hand, NFA accredited government corporations/institutions are exempted from the posting of bid bond.

Submission of the offer together with the bid bond will be between 12:00 noon to 1:00 PM on the tender date.

Opening of offers will start exactly at 1:00 PM. Only those approved and invited by the Bidding Committee for the supply of raw/refined sugar based on the list of NFA accredited government corporations and international traders/ suppliers accredited by the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) are invited to submit sealed tenders.

The pre-bidding conference will be held on **28 May 2001** at 10:00 AM at the FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER BUILDING FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Interested bidders may secure the terms and conditions starting 24 May 2001 (8:00 A.M. - 6:00 PM) from the Directorate for Marketing Operations, Foreign Operations Division, 5th Floor, NFA, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City with telephone numbers 743-8696; 712-1928; 712-1572; 712-1564 and 711-7433.

Bidding documents will be available on **28 May 2001** right after the pre-bidding conference to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00.

In case of failure a pre-rebidding/rebidding will be conducted on **04 June 2001 and 07 June 2001**, at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, respectively, at the **FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER BUILDING FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila.**

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any required formality or defect therein and may accept the bid which is deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **VICENTE V. RACHO**
Chairman, PBAC and
Assistant Administrator

(PDI--May 24, 25 & 26, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

24 May 2001

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Department of Agrarian Reform will undertake a pre-qualification of prospective bidders for the following services:

1. **Janitorial Manpower and other maintenance services**
2. **Security manpower services**

Pre-qualification forms and instruction are available at the PBAC Secretariat, General Services Division, Ground Floor, DAR Main Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Pre Bidding conference will be held at the HRD Training Center, DAR Compound, on **June 1, 2001**, at exactly 1:00 p.m. Pre-qualification forms and documents should be submitted to the PBAC Secretariat not later than 5:00 p.m. on **June 5, 2001**.

Only pre-qualified bidders will be allowed to bid and be issued bid documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00).

DAR PBAC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for expenses or losses that they may incur as a result of their participation in this bidding.

The DAR-PBAC reserves its right whether to act or not process pre-qualification documents received after the above scheduled deadline and to waive any defect or minor infirmities in the pre-qualification documents. Similarly, the DAR-PBAC reserves its right to reject any or all bids received without stating the reasons therefore and accept the offer considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **JOSE MARIE B. PONCE**
Chairman
DAR-PBAC for Janitorial & Security Services

(PDI - May 26, 27 & 28 2001)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be conducting sealed Sale Through Market Determined Pricing (SMDP) at Food Development Center, FTI Compound, Taguig, Metro Manila among all interested buyers for the sale of local and imported refined sugar, particulars as follows:

WITHDRAWAL PERIOD : VOLUME (in Lkg.)
JUNE : 250,000 Lkg.
JULY : 500,000 Lkg.
AUGUST : 500,000 Lkg.
SEPTEMBER : 250,000 Lkg.

COLOR (ICUMSA Units) max : 45 (Imported) 100 (Local)
INDICATIVE PRICE : P1,150.00 per Lkg.
BID BOND : 5% of the total price offer
PERFORMANCE BOND : 10% of the bid price in the form cash, manager's/cashier's check or thru Irrevocable Letter of Credit

PRE-AUCTION DATES/TIME : 28 May 2001 (June 4, 2001 in case of failre or for any balance of the first auction) 2:00 PM

AUCTION DATES : 30 May 2001 (6 June 2001 in case of failure or for any balance of the first auction) 2:00 PM

Bid documents will be available on 28 May 2001 after the Pre-SMDP conference and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00. Interested bidders may secure terms and conditions starting May 25, 2001 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Directorate for Marketing Operations (Operations and Coordinations Division), 5th Floor, Matimyas Building, E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City or may contact at telephone no. 712-1572.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all, waive any informality thereof and accept only such bids as are advantageous to the agency.

(Sgd.) **VICENTE V. RACHO**
Chairman, PBAC and
Assistant Administrator

(PDI--May 24, 25 & 26, 2001)

THE PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City
is still accepting application for

Nuclear Medicine for Academic Year 2001

Clinical Research Fellowship:
- A 2-Year Program open to graduates of accredited Residency Programs in Internal Medicine, Radiology, Family Medicine, Pediatrics and Pathology

Residency:
- Medical Board Passers
- Requires QUERT/DOH (Qualifying Examination for Residency Training/ Department of Health)

Deadline for submission of application is:
June 15, 2001

Please direct all inquiries to the
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 925-24-01 local 3234, 3235 & 3236 and 926-96-22

A leading law firm in Quezon City needs

LAWYERS

- must be successful examinees of 1999 and 2000 Bar Exams
- graduate of U.P., Ateneo and San Beda
- must be willing to do litigation and corporate work

Please apply in person with comprehensive resumé and ID picture at:

Rm. 2K Edificio Enriqueta
422 N.S. Amoranto St. corner
D. Tuazon Avenue, Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City, M.M.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES
(formerly PHILGUARANTEE)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

THE TRADE AND INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (TIDCORP) INVITES INTERESTED PARTIES/ CONTRACTORS WITH AT LEAST GENERAL B CATEGORY TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID FOR THE INTERIOR CONSTRUCTION OF OFFICE (Electrical, Architectural, Mechanical and Civil Works).

Pre-qualification requirements may be obtained from the General Services/Property and Supply Management Division, which requirements shall be submitted not later than 31 May 2001, together with a Letter of Intent. For further details, please call telephone No. 896-4515 locals 113/108 and 109.

Pre-bidding conference of short-listed bidders shall be on 05 June 2001.

Deadline for the submission of bids/opening of bids shall be 2:00 p.m. of 14 June 2001.

TIDCORP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein or to accept such bid(s) as may be most advantageous to it. TIDCORP assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids.

(SGD.) **Atty. MA. ROSARIO MANALANG-DEMIGILLO**
Senior Vice President and Chairperson
Special Pre-qualification, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI--May 25, 26 & 27, 2001)

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
PNPC Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Makati City, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos. 893-6001 to 47 loc. 2101-2102 / 845-3080
Fax No (632) 840-2024

PNOC
The Energy Company

INVITATION TO BID

The PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites accredited / pre-qualified contractors to submit sealed bids for the:

SECURITY SERVICES FOR ENERGY SUPPLY BASE
AT MABINI, BATANGAS

Bid documents shall be available for issuance to pre-qualified and accredited contractors starting **May 28, 2001.**

Sealed bids in two (2) sets shall be received by the Contracts Group not later than 2:00 p.m. of **June 29, 2001** at the above address and then shall be publicly opened at 2:00 p.m.

For the purpose of clarifications, a pre-bidding conference will be conducted on **June 15, 2001** at 2:00 p.m. at the Bldg. I Conference Room of the above address.

PNOC-EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

(Sgd.) **RICARDO S. BASALLO, JR.**
Chairman, Contracts Award Committee

(PDI - May 26 2001)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The PEA Tollway Corporation invites all interested printing press to pre-qualify and to bid for the preparation and printing of its 2000 Annual Report.

Interested parties can get copies of the bidding guidelines from the address herein below indicated starting May 23, 2001 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday to Friday only).

CHAIRMAN, SPECIAL PBAC
PEATC Corporate Office
G/F Bayview International Tower III
Tel. Nos. 855-7940 / 855-7946
Fax No. 855-7935

(PDI - May 26. 2001)

Visit us at our website
www.jobmarketonline.com

A Foreign-Assisted Project Needs

1 Project Development Officer V (Salary Grade 24)
Must have the relevant master's degree, with recent training and experience on Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank (WB) or Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)-assisted procurement and loan disbursement procedures and Civil Service (CS) professional eligible. Must have strong background in construction management, international procurement, finance management and government contracts administration. Must have at least 10 years of supervisory experience in implementation management of foreign-assisted project hardware components. With good communication skills, both oral and written and working knowledge of computer operations.

1 Project Development Officer III (Salary Grade 18)
Must have completed the relevant bachelor's degree, with 2 years of relevant experience, 8 hours of training and Civil Service (CS) professional eligible. Must demonstrate knowledge and application skills of training strategies and approaches, able to assist service providers in planning, conducting, and monitoring training programs, is competent in reviewing training materials. With good communication skills, both oral and written and working knowledge of computer operations.

1 Project Development Officer III (Salary Grade 18)
Must have completed the relevant bachelor's degree, with 2 years of relevant experience, 8 hours of training and Civil Service (CS) professional eligible. Must have knowledge and experience in foreign-assisted procurement processes and possess application skills in the procurement of textbooks and other supplementary/reference materials. Must possess application skills in monitoring the production and delivery of textbooks, able to maintain a textbooks database. With good communication skills, both oral and written and working knowledge of computer operations, specifically database management and spreadsheets.

1 Project Development Officer II (Salary Grade 15)
Must be a licensed Civil Engineer with at least 5 years of professional experience in bid documentation, construction supervision and implementation of foreign-funded projects. With good communication skills, both oral and written and working knowledge of computer operations. Willing to be deployed to various field assignments.

1 Project Development Officer II (Salary Grade 15)
Must have completed the relevant bachelor's degree with 1 year of relevant experience, 4 hours of training and Civil Service (CS) professional eligible. Must be able to manage and maintain the Project MIS; provide assistance and support in the generation, processing and transmittal of data to and from sources and users. With good communication skills, both oral and written and proficient in computer operations such as database management, spreadsheets, statistical applications.

1 Project Development Officer I (Salary Grade 11)
Must have completed the relevant bachelor's degree with experience in government accounting and auditing procedures, 4 hours of relevant training and Civil Service (CS) professional eligible. With accounting/bookkeeping background, must have knowledge of and application skills in maintaining records of financial transactions of loan proceeds. With good communication skills, both oral and written and proficient in computer operations.

1 Data Entry Machine Operator (Salary Grade 11)
Must have at least 2 years of relevant college education and experience, 8 hours of training and CS sub-professional eligible. Able to provide encoding services and maintains the efficient storage and retrieval of encoded reports, communications and other documents. Proficient in computer application software such as MS Office, Desktop Publishing, Database Management, Power Point Presentations and Internet operations. With good communication skills, both oral and written and willing to render service on extended working hours.

1 Administrative Officer II (Salary Grade 15)
Must have completed the relevant bachelor's degree, with 2 years of relevant experience, 8 hours of training and Civil Service (CS) professional eligible. Must be able to supervise record keeping and encoding services as well as other administrative support functions. Familiar with government accounting, auditing and procurement procedures. With good communication skills, both oral and written and proficient in computer operations, willing to render service on extended working hours.

2 Clerks IV (Salary Grade 8)
Must have at least 2 years of relevant college education and experience, 8 hours of training and Civil Service (CS) sub-professional eligible. Must be able to provide clerical and administrative support and maintain a systematic record of reports and documents. With good communication skills, both oral and written and proficient in computer operations, willing to render service on extended working hours.

Please bring your resumé with 2 x 2 photo on or before June 30, 2001 to:

SECONDARY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
National Project Management Office (NPMO)
Department of Education, Culture and Sports
5th Floor Bonifacio Bldg., DECS Complex
Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

Republika ng Pilipinas
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID
SLRC-2001-06A

The Southern Luzon Regional Center (SLRC), NPC wishes to invite interested parties to prequalify and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING: JUNE 18, 2001; 2:00 PM	
A1	525 MT	CAUSTIC SODA (SODIUM HYDROXIDE)	3MAK01-194
A2	1 LOT	JO-REPAIR OF "ACER" COMPUTER NOTEBOOK	3PTG01-009
A3	50 BOXES	CONTINOUS FORMS	3AFS01-012
		DATE OF BIDDING: JUNE 20, 2001; 2:00 PM	
B1	1 LOT	PIPES, ELBOWS, COUPLING (SUS304L)	3MAK01-185
B2	1 LOT	TRANSDUCERS, CABLES, CNDUITS, VIBRATION DATA COLLECTOR, JUNCTION/TERMINAL BOX	3BAC01-101
B3	1 LOT	VICTUALIC PIPES, BENDS & COUPLING	3BAC01-111
B4	1 LOT	SIGHT GLASS TUBE, TUBULAR GLASS CUTTER, SOLENOID COIL	3BAC01-243
B5	1 LOT	METAL CLOSURE, BB CLOSURES, AERIAL CLOSURE	3TIW00-083
B6	1 ASSY	AUXILIARY COOLING WATER BOOSTER PUMP	3BAC00-750
B7	1 LOT	SPARE PARTS OF PUMP (ACWBP)	3BAC00-749
B8	1 LOT	STRAIN CLAMPS & WORKING GLOVES	3LAG01-040
B9	5 REELS	OVERHEAD GROUND WIRE	3AI01-012
		DATE OF BIDDING: JUNE 21, 2001; 2:00 PM	
C1	1 LOT	CURRENT & POTENTIAL TRANSFORMERS	3LAG01-038
C2	2 SETS	BATTERY (INDUSTRIAL STATION, LEAD ACID)	3MAK01-192
C3	1 LOT	PORTABLE DISSOLVED GAS ANALYZER, CHROWATO GRAPH	3PTG01-016
C4	1 ASSY	ACTUATOR FOR MAIN STEAM ISOLATION VALVE	3BAC00-549
C5	2 PCS	PICK-UP COIL (DIFFERENTIAL EXPANSION)	3MAK01-108
C6	1 LOT	CAPACITOR POTENTIAL DEVICE (TOSHIBA) MAGNA-RESISTO VALVE	3TIW01-009
C7	1 LOT	J.O - REPAIR/REHABILITATION OF WATER COOLED CHILLER	3MAK01-038
C8	1 PC	PNEUMATIC POSITIONER	3MAK01-155
C9	1 LOT	J.O -REPAIR & CALIBRATION OF FLAME ANALYZER	3TIW01-012

Complete sets of bidding documents and other particulars may be obtained from the Office of the Manager Administration Division, SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fees of P25.00 and P50.00 per schedule for single and two envelope, respectively starting May 31, 2001. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Non-accredited suppliers can get prequalification papers and submit the same for evaluation not later than June 8, 2001 before they are allowed to bid.

Only those prequalified shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock PM on the dates specified above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

All bids regardless of price offer must be accompanied by Bidder's Bond in Cash or Certified Manager's/Cashier's Check, or a GSIS Surety Bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price.

The NPC-SLRC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the NPC-SLRC's action.

(Sgd.) **R. D. RAMAS**
Manager Administration

(PDI -- May 26, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Professional Regulation Commission hereby invites interested parties to pre-qualify and to submit sealed bids for the printing of **Test Booklets for the August 2001 Licensure Examination for Teachers.**

Bid documents may be secured from the Special Committee on Bidding of LET 2001 Test Booklets at the Licensure Office, 2nd Flr. PRC Annex Building, P. Paredes St., Sampaloc, Manila beginning **May 28 -- June 1, 2001.**

Prospective bidders are required to submit the following pre-qualification requirements to the Chairperson, Special Committee on Bidding of LET 2001 Test Booklets on or before June 8, 2001 at 10:00 a.m.:

1. Company Profile
2. SEC Registration
3. 2001 Business License/Permit
4. Latest Audited Financial Statement
5. List of Clients and References

Company and Plant visit shall be conducted from **June 11-15, 2001.**

Pre-bid Conference shall be held on **June 19, 2001** at 9:00 a.m. Failure to attend the pre-bid conference will be a ground for disqualification to participate in the bidding.

Submission and opening of bids shall be on **June 27, 2001** at 10:00 a.m.

All bid proposals must be accompanied by a bidder's bond equivalent to 2.5% of the total offer in the form of GSIS bond.

The Professional Regulation Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any required formality therein, and to accept that which is most advantageous to the government. The Commission assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The Commission also reserves the right to confiscate the bid bond should the winning bidder refuse to accept the contract.

(Sgd.) **ALFONSO G. ABAD**
Acting Chairperson

(PDI -- May 26 & 27, 2001)

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OBITUARIES

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ATTY. JOAQUIN P. STO. DOMINGO

Moncada, Tarlac and Quezon City

November 21, 1909 – May 23, 2001
Peacefully joined his Creator on May 23, 2001 at the age of 91.

His wife, **Paciencia Manalo Sto. Domingo** (†); children, **Corazon** and Jaime La'O, **Zenaida** (†) and Ismael Lopez, **Joaquin Jr.** and Amor Silva, **Noli** and Myrna Garcia, **Milagros** and Cecilio Rañola, **Leticia** and Antonio Briones, **Beth** and José de Leon, **Marilou** and Ruben Parto, **Jake** and Leni Padilla, **Evangeline** and Maximo de Castro Jr.

Grandchildren, Mary Jane, Jimmy, Cordette, Peter, Paul, John, Andrew, Caroline, Emmanuel, Mary Rose, Joanne, Jackie, Joaquinito, Jerome, Jinky, Johnny, Joyce, Norman, Marvin, Michelle, Monalisa, Milko, Mia, Monch, Marjorie, Pacingcing, Trixie, Muriel, Jason, Joseph, Mickey, Carlo, Tantan, Patrick, Jennifer, Macy, Katherine, Joy, Jill, Jessica, Christine, Robby, Paolo and Tricia; great grandchildren, brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 29, 2001 at the Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 2:00 p.m. Requiem Mass at Christ the King Church.

Our Dearly Beloved

Manuel Capistrano Bendaña, Sr.

31 August 1916 - 23 May 2001

Retired University Registrar & Math Professor
Former Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City

Peacefully joined our Lord on 23 May 2001 at the age of 84.

His wife **Cynthia (Cyndy) Jacinto-Bendaña**; children **Nelia** and **James Helbig**, **Manuel, Jr.**, **Jennifer Nicole**; grandchildren **Nikki** and **Darcy**; sisters **Adelaida Brown**, **Sr. Ildefonsa** (†), **Leovina Dizon**, **J. Roquesa**, **Humildad Alfonso** (†) and **Genuina**; brother **Simeon, Jr.** (†); sister-in-law **Remedios**; and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be transferred to the Holy Sacrifice Chapel, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City at 2:00 PM, Sunday, 27 May. Requiem Mass will be at 7:30 AM, Tuesday, 29 May.

Interment will follow at the Catholic Cemetery, Tanay, Rizal.

Please omit flowers.

Our Dearly Beloved Brother

REYNOLD SALONGA

Peacefully joined his Creator
on May 24, 2001
at St. Luke's Hospital

His loving mother **Pilang**; sisters **Aida**, **Beth**, **Susan**, **Azon** and **Trining**; brother **Danny**; brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 29, 2001 at Eternal Garden, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Capt. ALFONSO S. ROQUE

Peacefully joined our Creator
on May 24, 2001
at the age of 76.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City.

Cremation will be on May 27, 2001, 8:00 AM at Loyola Crematory Services.

"For God so loved
the world, that He gave
His only begotten Son, that
whoever believes in Him
shall not perish but have
everlasting life."
John 3:16

RICARDO DAYLO SALOMON, SR.

Has peacefully joined our Creator on May 23, 2001
at the age of 64.

Family request you to pray for him on his eternal journey with our Lord.

His earthly remains lie in state at The Felicidad Chapel of the Arlington Memorial Chapel (G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City).

Interment will be at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina on Sunday, May 27, 2001 after the 1:30 p.m. Mass.

ENGR. JESUS V. CABINIAN

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on May 18, 2001 at the age of 69.

Interment will be on May 27, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City, after the celebration of the Holy Mass at 9:00 AM.

CARIDAD PORTILLA BALLESTAMON

of General Trias, Cavite and San Fernando, Pampanga

Peacefully joined our Lord on May 24, 2001
at the age of 90.

Her bereaved children **Pedro** and **Herminia Manapsal**, **Benedicto** and **Caridad Zamora**, **Genaro** and **Evelyn Pantig**, **Rodolfo** and **Patria Rodriguez**, **Rene**, **Sylvia**, and **Cora**; twin sister **Esperanza Portilla Dragon**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapel, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 27, 2001 at the Good Shepherd Memorial Park in San Fernando, Pampanga, after the 11:00 a.m. Holy Mass at the Arlington Memorial Chapel.

In Loving Memory
on the **Eighth Death Anniversary** of

LEODEGARIA "NENA" LILLES TIOSECO

October 2, 1923 - May 26, 1993

Memorial Masses will be held at:

Parish of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, *West Triangle, Quezon City* 6:00 PM
Santo Domingo Church, *Quezon City* 6:00 PM
Corpus Christi Church, *Vancouver, Canada*
St. Mary's Church, *Vancouver, Canada*

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❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)
• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS •
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN •

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

E-MAIL: aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph
sprojects@inquirer.com.ph

Primetrade Asia launches The Corporate Show .01

ON July 9 to 11, Primetrade Asia, Inc. will be launching the first gathering of corporate suppliers that is specifically designed to provide the corporate arena of the most comprehensive trade show ever at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City.

Dubbed as "The Corporate Show .01", the event aims to consolidate the advertising and marketing needs of corporations into one combined effort. The Corporate Show .01 enables corporations the ease of establishing a huge network of potential clients in a short period of time through the time-tested medium of the trade fair. The event attracts a diverse and well-qualified market of customers from a variety of industries and backgrounds, all in one day and all in one place.

Professional Events organizer Primetrade Asia Inc. creates the event. The company is a leading producer of well-attended marketing events in the country today. The Corporate Show .01 will support corporations and companies in building strong relations with suppliers and potential clients through various activities in the 3 days it will be held.

Exhibitors to The Corporate Show .01 will be a part of the event's comprehensive promotional and advertising campaign in the industry, including local newspaper, radio, magazines, corporate journals, direct mail, and an extensive public relations effort. Exhibitors may also advertise in The Official Corporate Guide free of charge.

Interested exhibitors to The Corporate Show .01 may call the Primetrade Asia Inc. secretariat at 896-0661 or 896-0682. You can also log on to www.thecorporateshow.com and find out the best and latest solutions to your corporate needs.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer and Centrex Corporation present the Corporate Show .01 with the support of Philonline, Club Panoly, 88.3 Citylite, 89.9 WTM, Joey@92.3, 93.9 KCFM, 99.5 RT and 105.1 Crossover.

FFCCCII'S OATH TAKING CEREMONY

Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo inducts FFCCCII's Board of Directors during its oath taking ceremony held at the Federation Center April 23. In photo are (from right) Tan Tian Siong, Vicente Sitosta, Robin Sy, Yao Eng Hue, Jimmy T. Tang, John K.C. Ng, Benjamin Chua, Jr. (FFCCCII president), Domingo Lee, Lucio Tan (partly hidden), John Tan, and Representative Harry Angping.

Burlington in 'Spot' movie screening

BURLINGTON Industries Philippines (BIP) Inc., maker of Burlington socks, recently signed up to be the major sponsor of the special fund-raising project of six socio-civic organizations in cooperation with Total Events and Athlete Management (TEAM) Corp.

The six organizations—Rotary Club of Caloocan Silangan, CFC of MHC, Association of Early Childhood Educators, Numeriano C. Pereña Scholarship Foundation, PCS Class of 1974 and UST Comm Arts Batch '78—will present the advance screening of "Spot". Screening takes place May 30 at 7:30 p.m. at Robinson's Place-Cinema 1, Ermita Manila for the benefit of Fr. O' Brien Angels' Home, a special house for street children. The event is also being supported by Hanford underwears, Puma Socks and PLDT. For inquiries, please call 894-3576 to 77.

Lite n' Live reborn

AFTER a successful transformation from a concert bar to a total entertainment center, Examiners Lite n' Live now offers world-class billiards facilities and a spacious dance floor.

Everyone's invited to party until dawn with Eraserheads tonight, May 26. Performing back-to-back is the Policy Band. Watch out for the opening of Cookie Cuckoo Coffee Shop at the ground level of Examiner's Lite n' Live. For information, call Gladys at 373-7181/83.

UPOU E-commerce course online

TO GUIDE entrepreneurs are starting or wanting to put their business online, the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU) offers a non-formal online course on E-commerce.

The course gives knowledge on various aspects of e-commerce. Online classes for E-commerce runs for 16 weeks and registration starts on May 28. To enroll, parties must reserve a slot through http://ivle.upou.org. For more details, contact the faculty of management sciences, UPOU at (049)536-6001 to 06 loc. 821 or e-mail ou_fms@laguna.net

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Mila Jarlega (left), owner/principal of Casa Real Montessori and Arturo Jarlega, president and chair of the board, together with Vic Manarang, president and chief executive officer of Earth+Style Corporation and Aidee Tejano, E+S sales management group head, sign the memorandum of agreement for the construction of the three-story Casa Real Montessori, in the 4,000-sqm property at Parkplace Village, the premiere address for elegant living at Aguinaldo Highway, Imus, Cavite. Witnessing the signing are Wai Ming Wong, Earth+Style vice president for marketing; Susan Alcabao, E+S sales marketing group head, and Elena Verceluz of E+S selling unit.

BITS & Clips

Nissan Frontier caravan

UNIVERSAL Motors Corp. and one of its dealers Royce Motor Center, Inc. is holding its three-day Nissan Frontier Caravan in Tarlac May 25-27, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Jecsons Hotel, along McArthur Highway, Tarlac City. Nissan LCV owners can avail of special services such as free diagnostic check-up of Nissan LCVs and SUVs, 50-percent discounts on selected genuine UMC-Nissan parts and accessories, and free testdrives of the Nissan Frontier for free.

Rotary district assembly

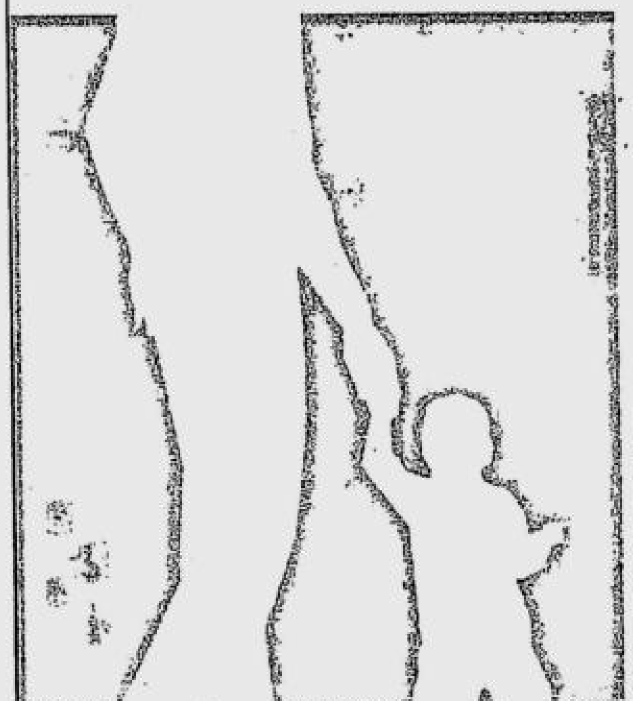
HUNDREDS of Rotarians from Rotary District 3790 have converged in Olongapo City for the two-day District Assembly, which began May 25 and ends today, May 26. Rotary District 3790 comprises the cities of Baguio, Laoag, Vigan, Candon, Dagupan, San Carlos, Tarlac and Olongapo and the provinces of Benguet, Ilocos Norte, Abra, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bataan and Zambales. The annual assembly will indoctrinate incoming district 3790 and club officers and directors on their Rotary accountableness effective July 1.

Lucena celebrates 'Pasayahan'

WITH the theme "Kasaysayan ng Lahi at Kultura", Lucena City bursts into revelry May 26-28 as it celebrates the annual "Pasayahan sa Lucena 2001". The 13th edition of this celebration features a grand Flores de Mayo and Santacruzan, a search for the Bb. Pasayahan as well as fireworks at the park, car shows, ballroom dancing contests, and a two-day midnight madness sale. The city also closes its main roads for three days of street dancing. Highlight of the affair is the grand parade on May 28 showcasing 17 floats and street dancing.

The Venue presents Side A

ALL roads lead to The Venue in Davao today, May 26 for Side A's special concert. The Venue, located at Quirino Avenue corner Jacinto Extension in the heart of Davao City, is a one-stop venue for music lovers, sports fans, and food trippers. "Side A Live at The Venue" starts at 9 p.m. Linmarr Suites and Apartelle guests can enter for free. For more information, call (082)221-2915 or fax (082)221-5748.



A DAD'S DAY Treat

Let the world know how much your dearest father means to you by writing him a deeply felt love note in the widest read and circulated broadsheet in the country.

On **June 17, Fathers' Day, INQUIRER Classifieds** will publish personal ads dedicated to the fathers at a discounted rate of **P50** per line or **P150** per column centimeters.

For more information, visit any INQUIRER branch or call **897-2535.**

- Prices are VAT exclusive
- Rate is applicable on the June 17 issue only

SAMPLE ADS

Happy Fathers' Day Dad!
love,
Issa

size: 1 col x 4 cm
cost: P660 vat inclusive

Happy Fathers' Day Tatay Thank you for everything. I love you. Rose

size: 3 lines
cost: P165 vat inclusive

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OBITUARIES

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

MARVIN JOHN M. FERNANDEZ

of Santiago City, Province of Isabela

(December 8, 1977 - May 23, 2001)

His parents **Ernesto** and **Evelyn**; sister **Maricar** and brothers **Marson** and **Marjun** request the pious readers to pray for his eternal happiness in Heaven.

His remains lie in his hometown Santiago City, Isabela.

Interment will be announced on later date.

Masses will be held simultaneously on May 27, 2001, 6:00 a.m. at San Lorenzo Ruiz Minor Basilica, Binondo, Manila; Our Lady of Good Voyage Cathedral, Antipolo City, and San Beda College Chapel, Mendiola, Manila.

Our Dearly Beloved Mama

MARIA (NENA) SAGARBARRIA Vda. de FLORENTINO

Died in the grace of our Lord on May 24, 2001 at the age of 92.

Her bereaved children **Chit** and **Cading Torres** (†), **Bulong** (†) and **Evelyn, Eng** and **Jess Caballero, Choly** and **Thelma, Eddie** (†) and **Flavie, Emilio** (†), and **Rosie** and **Victor**; nephews, nieces, grandchildren and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at her residence, 1617 Craig Street, Sampaloc, Manila.

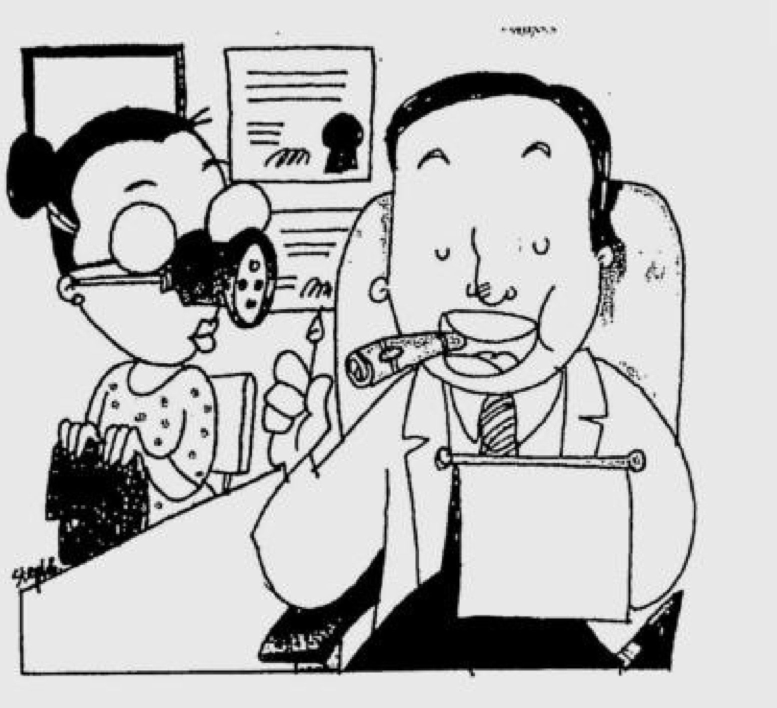
Interment will be announced later.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

1 in 3 doctors smokes in front of patients; 59% of parents smoke

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR



One out of three Filipinos smoke.

Even in clinics and in hospitals, this is also the ratio as one out of three physicians smoke in front of their patients, thereby causing a third of Filipino patients to be victims of passive smoking. About 63 percent of male physicians and 37 percent of female physicians smoke. This was disclosed by the Department of Health based on a 1999 study.

Even at home, children are not spared. About 59.1 percent of parents smoke. This is based on a nationwide school-based 2000 Philippine Global Youth Tobacco Survey (PGYTS) wherein students in the secondary years, from sophomores to seniors, responded. The nationwide, two-stage cluster sample design of the PGYTS survey had a school response rate of 90 percent. A total of 11,630 students participated in the PGYTS and the data are deemed representative for all of the Philippines.

Deaths

At any given hour in the Philippines, two Filipinos—either smoker or nonsmoker—die from tobacco-related diseases, the Department of Health disclosed. Dr. Jasmine Cueto de Leon cited that nearly 14,000 new cases of bronchial, lung, oral and nasal pharyngeal or throat cancers are diagnosed every year. And 90 percent of all lung cancer cases are directly attributable to tobacco.

In 1998, tobacco-related diseases killed more than four million people worldwide. Filipinos accounted for 20,000 of these deaths.

Young smokers

The PGYTS also revealed that 42.8 percent of students tried smoking cigarettes, but 21.6 percent are currently smokers. About 27.1 percent currently use any tobacco product. About 26.5 percent are likely to start smoking next year.

In knowledge and attitudes, 25.8 percent of the whole population surveyed think that boys and 13.9 percent of girls who smoke have more friends. In terms of attractiveness, 13.8 percent think that boys and 8.9 percent think that girls who smoke look attractive.

About 18.5 percent usually smoke at home, 44.8 percent buy cigarettes in the stores, 46.6 percent who bought cigarettes in stores were not refused purchase because of their age.

"We're not even talking about out-of-school youth yet," said De Leon. "Perhaps even a five-year-old can buy cigarettes in the store." she added.

Passive smoking

The DOH revealed that it would be infusing money into research to do comparative studies among government and private hospitals with findings of patients becoming victims of passive smoking. Comparative studies are also being planned for private school settings, particularly in the high school.

About 33 percent of the current adult population smokes. This 33 percent affects 60 percent of all households in the Philippines Only 4 out of 10 households are smoke free. With an average of about 5.1 members per household, there are about 35 million passive smokers in the country—nearly half of the country's population.

About 30 percent of all adolescents between the ages of 13 and 15 in the urban area smoke. Forty percent of boys, 19 percent of girls aged 10 to 14 smoke daily, meaning these are frequent smokers. De Leon noted that the figure for young females doesn't mean that the female population smokes less. De Leon cited.

Women smokers

"The prevalence of women who smoke goes up as girls get older with the stress and the exposure. And this is alarming because even pregnant women smoke," she said.

Among Filipinas, smoking prevalence has doubled over the past decade. The 1999 figures showed the rise from 8 percent in 1987 to 18 percent in 1999.

"There's no safe level of exposure to secondary smoking," said De Leon. "If smokers have a right to smoke, nonsmokers also have the right to clean air."

The DOH said that the more important thing to note would be smoking initiation among the youth, since marketing is very aggressive in this age group. This age range would be the smokers of the future.

"For me, the worst is the aggressive marketing among the children. Even giving them sample packs at an early age. This practice is being done in the developing countries," said De Leon.

Smoking among children and pregnant women could be the worst of all, she added.

The DOH still provides programs for adult smokers who want to quit. It is formulating more programs for the youth and for pregnant women.

What's in secondhand smoke?

The table below shows a selection of chemicals a restaurant employee would inhale directly in a 300-square-meter area during an eight-hour shift. These calculations assume only 10 smokers, each smoking two cigarettes per hour and take into account standard ventilation rates. The chemicals in bold letters are known carcinogens. Among this list are irritants, mutagens, toxins and substances that increase blood pressure, promote tumors, affect the central nervous system, damage lungs and cause kidney malfunction.

Chemical	Amount (ug)	Chemical	Amount (ug)
carbon monoxide	5606	**benzo[a]pyrene**	18
tar	3128	propionaldehyde	17
nicotine	678	resols	15
acetaldehyde	207	hydrogen cyanide	14
nitric oxide	190	styrene	13
isoprene	151	butyraldehyde	12
resorcinol	123	**acrylonitrile**	11
acetone	121	**crotonaldehyde**	10
toluene	66	**cadmium**	9.7
formaldehyde	54	1-aminonaphthalene	8.5
phenol	44	**chromium**	7.1
acrolein	40	**lead**	6.0
benzene	36	**2-aminonaphtalene**	5.2
pyridine	33	**nickel**	4.2
1,3-butadiene	25	3-aminobiphenyl	2.4
hydroquinone	24	**4-aminobiphenyl**	1.4
methyl ethyl ketone	23	**quinoline**	1.3
catechol	22		

Source: Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada

Alternative crops for farmers

TOBACCO provides livelihood for 47,500 Filipino farmers but this is not stopping the Department of Health from pursuing its anti-tobacco campaign.

Together with the departments of trade and industry and agriculture, the DOH will help tobacco farmers grow alternative crops and will set up structural mechanisms to support alternative cropping.

"This is not our mandate but we want to show how the DOH has gone into a multistrategy approach. Tobacco control is not that simple," said Dr. Jasmine Cueto de Leon.

De Leon said changing tobacco crops with alternative crops would take community and social preparations. Marketing strategies for the farmers' new crops are also needed to assure their livelihood.

The DOH has been criticized for its "superficial" "*Yosi Kadiri*" project but the department pointed out that tobacco control was not a simple issue. There are step-by-step, multistrategy approaches toward advocacy and health promotion.

"It takes time before you can change behavior. First is awareness, second the arousal and then the behavioral change," said De Leon.

"If you see (*Yosi Kadiri*) as superficial, it is because the DOH at that time was in the awareness raising, so you don't expect the impact and behavioral change from two years of campaigning. This is not the only strategy we have," she said.

Tessa R. Salazar

Life according to Bill Gates

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

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1. Life is not fair—get used to it.
2. The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something before you feel good about yourself.
3. You will not make 40 thousand dollars a year right out of high school, and

won't be a vice president with a car phone--until you earn both.

4. If you think your teach is tough, wait till you get a boss. He doesn't have tenure.
5. Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for burger flipping—they called it opportunity.
6. If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes. Learn from them.
7. Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you are. So before you save the rainforest from the parasites of your parents' generation, try delousing the closet in your own room.
8. Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life has not. In some schools they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you many times to get the right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to anything in real life.
9. Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you find yourself. Do that on your own time.
10. Television is not real life. In real life, people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.
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Malou Olidan, Dominican sisters of Anunciata, 12 P. Bernardo St., Cubao, Quezon City has this request:

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As far as I know, I am one of the few Filipino teachers who have a background in both math and psychology, so you can get hold of my books: "Why Be Afraid of Math," "In the Beginning," "Eureka!," "Straight Talk on Everyday Mysteries." There is an organization, the Psychology of Mathematics Education (PME), who does research on these two fields, so you can surf the Net for more information on them.

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Robert Hanan, Unit 25, 17 Bayview St., Runaway Bay, QLD 4216, Australia, [bobhanan@iprimus. com.au] comments on the Big Bang articles (Jan. 20, 2001):

The most distant objects that we can see through our astronomical telescopes are not necessarily the full size of the universe. If we had a lens or mirror the size of the earth, we would see a much larger universe, perhaps even other universes. What we see is limited by the light- gathering power of our telescopes and that depends upon the diameter of the lens or mirror.

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Let us turn to nonscientific matters. Filda Quiqones Tusing of Ateneo de Naga University, Naga City [filda_mail@eudoramail.com] has this request:

Can I ask for some clippings about Rizal? Can you also send me the lyrics of Bayan Ko and Magkaisa, the theme songs of People Power I and II? Also, can you criticize the GMA production titled "Jose Rizal"? I would greatly appreciate any help you can offer me.

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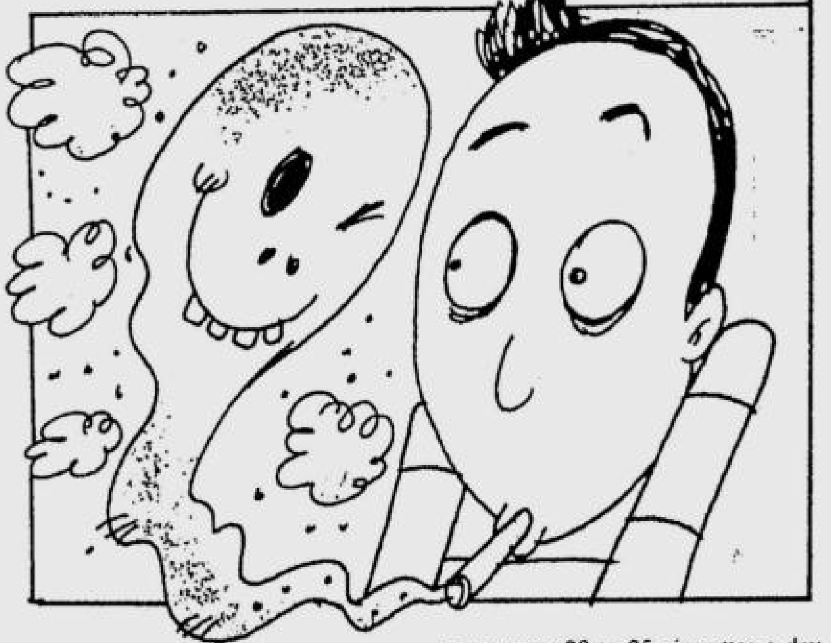
* * *

Send your queries to me c/o Ateneo de Manila University, Math Dept., Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Or e-mail me at queena@ mathsci. math.admu. edu.ph.

WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY

3.5-M smokers die yearly—10,000 a day

BY VICENTE B. FOZ



THURSDAY, May 31, might seem like an ordinary day on the calendar, but in truth, it's World No Tobacco Day—the first and only global event where smokers around the world unite to break free from their dependence on tobacco.

The World Health Organization (WHO) annually sponsors World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) to call attention to the seriousness of the impact of tobacco on health. First held in 1988, and observed annually on May 31, WNTD is the only global event established to raise awareness of the international impact of tobacco use and promote a tobacco-free environment.

A deadly habit

Currently, approximately 1.1 billion people around the world smoke. This includes manufactured cigarettes as well as other forms. Of these smokers, around 3.5 million die every year as a result of tobacco-related illnesses. This equals 10,000 deaths per day. The impact is long-term: It is predicted that by the year 2020, tobacco will become the leading cause of death and disability, killing more than 10 million people annually, causing more deaths than HIV, tuberculosis, maternal mortality, and motor vehicle accidents combined. Yet despite massive public education efforts, many smokers seem uninformed on the harm caused by tobacco use. According to a 1999 study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, only 29 percent of smokers thought they had an above-average risk for heart attack compared with their nonsmoking peers, and only 40 percent felt they had an increased risk of developing cancer.

Another significant health hazard that many smokers are unaware of is Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease or COPD. COPD is generally indicated by severe breathlessness, prolonged coughing with phlegm and irreversible lung damage caused by chronic bronchitis and emphysema, or a combination of the two. COPD is mainly caused by smoking, and it has no cure.

Clearing the air

World No Tobacco Day 2001 will focus on the theme of secondhand smoke, a key issue in tobacco control, as a means to mobilize in taking real actions to clear the air.

Secondhand smoke is a significant threat to public health. Supported by two decades of evidence, the scientific community now agrees that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoking has been causally associated with a range of life-threatening health effects, including lung cancer and heart disease. For children, the situation is particularly disturbing, as involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke has been identified as a cause of respiratory disease, middle ear disease, asthma attacks, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Tobacco smoke is also an important source of indoor air pollution, contributing to a noxious environment, and causing eye irritation, sore throat, cough and headache.

The gains of quitting

The simple act of quitting tobacco use results in substantial savings through unbought tobacco products and lowered health care costs. For example, in the United States, if a 12-year-old invests the money he or she could spend in a lifetime pack-a-day habit in a money-market account (paying eight percent interest annually) instead, that person would save US$100,000 by age 39 and US$1 million by age 65. If you are wondering just how much money you can save by quitting your tobacco habit, log on to www.worldnotobacco.com and use the website's World No Tobacc'O' Meter to calculate your savings in a number of different currencies. Or use the Meter to learn the number of tobacco-free days or years that you have added to your life by choosing to quit tobacco to appreciate the real, individual impact of quitting.

Thirty-five-year-old Laurie, who used to consume 20 to 25 cigarettes a day, shares what got her to kick the tobacco habit. "I have two children and they along with my husband pestered me to finally quit smoking. They told me that they wanted to spend a long happy life with me and were afraid that I would die and take them with me if I continued smoking.," she relates. "This tough love finally sunk in around October of 1992, when I quit for good. Along the way, I received praise and encouragement from my husband and children but the primary motivation was myself. I kept telling myself that I was too intelligent to continue gambling with my life. It's now been almost nine years and I have no desire to start smoking again."

Pack-a-day smoker Mark quit smoking two years ago and hasn't looked back. "After making honest attempts several times over the previous three years, I finally realized that I was allowing stupid little white tubes of chemicals to rule my life! I just kept telling myself that nothing was going to have that kind of control over my mind. It made it so much easier to think of the cigarettes as a separate enemy that I was triumphing over. And I won."

For others, it was simply a matter of heeding a painful warning. "My father died of COPD," says 32-year-old Danielle. "That was the tragic wake-up call for myself and my siblings to quit while we were ahead."

Preventing kids from smoking

Unfortunately, tobacco companies are doing an effective job of enticing people to buy cigarettes by glamorizing smoking in advertisements; movies, television, and music play an influential role as well. Children are specially targeted, says WHO director general Gro Harlem Brundtland. "To those young and not so young who might be debating whether or not to start smoking," Brundtland said in a statement made during last year's World No Tobacco Day, "I would like to say, 'Tobacco kills—don't be duped.'"

The following points are based on research conducted by Pamela I. Clark, Ph.D., of Northeastern Ohio University's College of Medicine, regarding what parents can do about children and smoking. This information may help you in talking to your kids about cigarettes.

- Don't assume kids will learn to be smoke-free at school—They may be-educated about the health risks, but kids decide whether or not to smoke for emotional reasons.
- Let them know how you feel about smoking—Kids are more comfortable knowing that there are boundaries, and they can't know the rules unless you tell them. Kids do listen—they may feel a need to rebel at first—but they will value the message, especially coming from you.
- Make an emotional appeal—Telling them how hurt or disappointed you would be by their smoking has more impact than reasoning with them about the health dangers.
- Know that peer pressure is often used as an excuse for smoking—It may provide an opportunity to start, but kids continue to smoke for individual reasons.
- Be a good role model—If you smoke, explain that you know it's a bad habit and ask them to help you quit.
- Limit their ability to buy cigarettes—If necessary, cut all sources of income so they can't buy tobacco. This may mean fixing a lunch instead of giving them lunch money.
- Have extended family support to keep kids smoke-free—Often older brothers or sisters or other relatives introduce them to smoking.
- Don't believe that smoking is safer than "something else"—Most kids are at real and greater risk from smoking than from other dangers.
- It's never too late to intervene—Kids are flexible, they can change for the right reasons and you can make a difference.

WHO calls for tighter tobacco regulations

GENEVA—The World Health Organization (WHO) called on governments to overhaul their methods for testing the measure of tar and nicotine yield in cigarettes, noting that current methods give consumers a false sense of security.

WHO made the recommendation in a new book that lays out a guide for governments to consider in improving methods of regulating tobacco products. The Geneva-based agency also urged governments to consider including in future regulations the removal of what it called the misleading branding of cigarettes as "low tar" or "lights."

Tobacco products, despite being "highly engineered" consumer products and addictive, are excluded from consumer protection laws such as food and drug legislation all over the world, WHO said in a press statement.

"Existing regulatory structures are based on scientific information which is out of date," WHO lamented.

"Where regulations do exist they are not well implemented," it added.

Four million people die annually from tobacco use, and the toll is expected to rise to 10 million by 2030, WHO said.

The book titled "Advancing Knowledge on Regulating Tobacco Products," said current machine tests do not measure human exposure to tobacco smoke and give consumers a false sense of security.

"A cigarette is a euphemism for a cleverly crafted product that delivers just the right amount of nicotine to keep its user addicted for life before killing him or her," said Gro Harlem Brundtland, WHO director general.

WHO has launched negotiations among its member states to draw up the world's first public health treaty by 2003 at the latest, to curb deaths from smoking. But the second round of talks closed here earlier this month with little sign of progress. Talks are due to resume in November.

AFP

SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

1 in 3 doctors smokes in front of patients; 59% of parents smoke

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

One out of three Filipinos smoke.

Even in clinics and in hospitals, this is also the ratio as one out of three physicians smoke in front of their patients, thereby causing a third of Filipino patients to be victims of passive smoking. About 63 percent of male physicians and 37 percent of female physicians smoke. This was disclosed by the Department of Health based on a 1999 study.

Even at home, children are not spared. About 59.1 percent of parents smoke. This is based on a nationwide school-based 2000 Philippine Global Youth Tobacco Survey (PGYTS) wherein students in the secondary years, from sophomores to seniors, responded. The nationwide, two-stage cluster sample design of the PGYTS survey had a school response rate of 90 percent. A total of 11,630 students participated in the PGYTS and the data are deemed representative for all of the Philippines.

Deaths

At any given hour in the Philippines, two Filipinos- either smoker or nonsmoker—die from tobacco-related diseases, the Department of Health disclosed. Dr. Jasmine Cueto de Leon cited that nearly 14,000 new cases of bronchial, lung, oral and nasal pharyngeal or throat cancers are diagnosed every year. And 90 percent of all lung cancer cases are directly attributable to tobacco.

In 1998, tobacco-related diseases killed more than four million people worldwide. Filipinos accounted for 20,000 of these deaths.

Young smokers

The PGYTS also revealed that 42.8 percent of students tried smoking cigarettes, but 21.6 percent are currently smokers. About 27.1 percent currently use any tobacco product. About 26.5 percent are likely to start smoking next year.

In knowledge and attitudes, 25.8 percent of the whole population surveyed think that boys and 13.9 percent of girls who smoke have more friends. In terms of attractiveness, 13.8 percent think that boys and 8.9 percent think that girls who smoke look attractive.

About 18.5 percent usually smoke at home, 44.8 percent buy cigarettes in the stores, 46.6 percent who bought cigarettes in stores were not refused purchase because of their age.

"We're not even talking about out-of-school youth yet," said De Leon. "Perhaps even a five-year-old can buy cigarettes in the store," she added.

Passive smoking

The DOH revealed that it would be infusing money into research to do comparative studies among government and private hospitals with findings of patients becoming victims of passive smoking. Comparative studies are also being planned for private school settings particularly in the high school.

About 33 percent of the current adult population smokes. This 33 percent affects 60 percent of all households in the Philippines. Only 4 out of 10 households are smoke free. With an average of about 5.1 members per household, there are about 35 million passive smokers in the country—nearly half of the country's population.

About 30 percent of all adolescents between the ages of 13 and 15 in the urban area smoke. Forty percent of boys, 19 percent of girls aged 10 to 14 smoke daily, meaning these are frequent smokers. De Leon noted that the figure for young females doesn't mean that the female population smokes less, De Leon cited.

Women smokers

"The prevalence of women who smoke goes up as girls get older with the stress and the exposure. And this is alarming because even pregnant women smoke," she said.

Among Filipinas, smoking prevalence has doubled over the past decade. The 1999 figures showed the rise from 8 percent in 1987 to 18 percent in 1999.

"There's no safe level of exposure to secondary smoking," said De Leon. "If smokers have a right to smoke, nonsmokers also have the right to clean air."

The DOH said that the more important thing to note would be smoking initiation among the youth, since marketing is very aggressive in this age group. This age range would be the smokers of the future.

"For me, the worst is the aggressive marketing among the children. Even giving them sample packs at an early age. This practice is being done in the developing countries," said De Leon.

Smoking among children and pregnant women could be the worst of all, she added.

The DOH still provides programs for adult smokers who want to quit. It is formulating more programs for the youth and for pregnant women.

What's in secondhand smoke?

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WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY

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BY VICENTE B. FOZ

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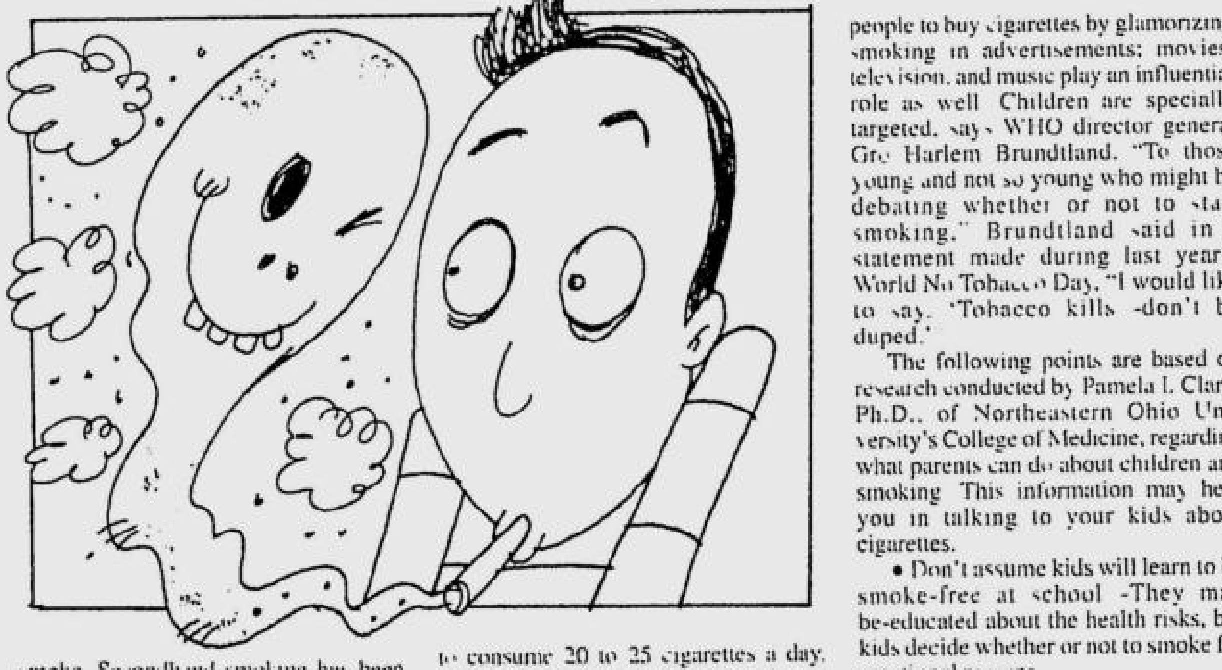

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For others, it was simply a matter of heeding a painful warning. "My father died of COPD," says 32-year-old Danielle. "That was the tragic wake-up call for myself and my siblings to quit while we were ahead."

Preventing kids from smoking

Unfortunately, tobacco companies are doing an effective job of enticing people to buy cigarettes by glamorizing smoking in advertisements; movies, television, and music play an influential role as well. Children are specially targeted, says WHO director general Gro Harlem Brundtland. "To those young and not so young who might be debating whether or not to start smoking," Brundtland said in a statement made during last year's World No Tobacco Day, "I would like to say, 'Tobacco kills -don't be duped.'"

The following points are based on research conducted by Pamela I. Clark, Ph.D., of Northeastern Ohio University's College of Medicine, regarding what parents can do about children and smoking. This information may help you in talking to your kids about cigarettes.

- Don't assume kids will learn to be smoke-free at school -They may be-educated about the health risks, but kids decide whether or not to smoke for emotional reasons.
- Let them know how you feel about smoking—Kids are more comfortable knowing that there are boundaries, and they can't know the rules unless you tell them. Kids do listen—they may feel a need to rebel at first—but they will value the message, especially coming from you.
- Make an emotional appeal- Telling them how hurt or disappointed you would be by their smoking has more impact than reasoning with them about the health dangers.
- Know that peer pressure is often used as an excuse for smoking- -It may provide an opportunity to start, but kids continue to smoke for individual reasons.
- Be a good role model—If you smoke, explain that you know it's a bad habit and ask them to help you quit.
- Limit their ability to buy cigarettes -If necessary, cut all sources of income so they can't buy tobacco. This may mean fixing a lunch instead of giving them lunch money.
- Have extended family support to keep kids smoke-free—Often older brothers or sisters or other relatives introduce them to smoking.
- Don't believe that smoking is safer than "something else" —Most kids are at real and greater risk from smoking than from other dangers.
- It's never too late to intervene- Kids are flexible, they can change for the right reasons and you can make a difference.

WHO calls for tighter tobacco regulations

GENEVA- -The World Health Organization (WHO) called on governments to overhaul their methods for testing the measure of tar and nicotine yield in cigarettes, noting that current methods give consumers a false sense of security.

WHO made the recommendation in a new book that lays out a guide for governments to consider in improving methods of regulating tobacco products. The Geneva-based agency also urged governments to consider including in future regulations the removal of what it called the misleading branding of cigarettes as "low tar" or "lights."

Tobacco products, despite being "highly engineered" consumer products and addictive, are excluded from consumer protection laws such as food and drug legislation all over the world, WHO said in a press statement.

"Existing regulatory structures are based on scientific information which is out of date," WHO lamented.

"Where regulations do exist they are not well implemented," it added.

Four million people die annually from tobacco use, and the toll is expected to rise to 10 million by 2030, WHO said.

The book titled "Advancing Knowledge on Regulating Tobacco Products," said current machine tests do not measure human exposure to tobacco smoke and give consumers a false sense of security.

"A cigarette is a euphemism for a cleverly crafted product that delivers just the right amount of nicotine to keep its user addicted for life before killing him or her," said Gro Harlem Brundtland, WHO director general.

WHO has launched negotiations among its member states to draw up the world's first public health treaty by 2003 at the latest, to curb deaths from smoking. But the second round of talks closed here earlier this month with little sign of progress. Talks are due to resume in November.

AFP

Gratin of Mango

1/2 cup sugar, dissolved in 1/2 cup water
2 ripe, firm mangoes, peeled and halved
1 383g can NESTLÉ CREAM
1/4 cup brown sugar, mixed with
1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
coarsely chopped walnuts
or cashew nuts (optional)

Boil sugar and water for about 4 minutes. Add in sliced mangoes and simmer for 2 minutes. Turn off fire and let stand for about 3 hours. Drain mangoes thoroughly and arrange slices in individual oven-proof serving bowls or dishes. Pour NESTLÉ CREAM on prepared fruit and sprinkle sugar-cinnamon mixture. Broil about 4 minutes or until sugar melts. Sprinkle with chopped nuts to serve, if desired.

Watch out for next week's fruity treat!

SATURDAY, MAY 26, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER C1

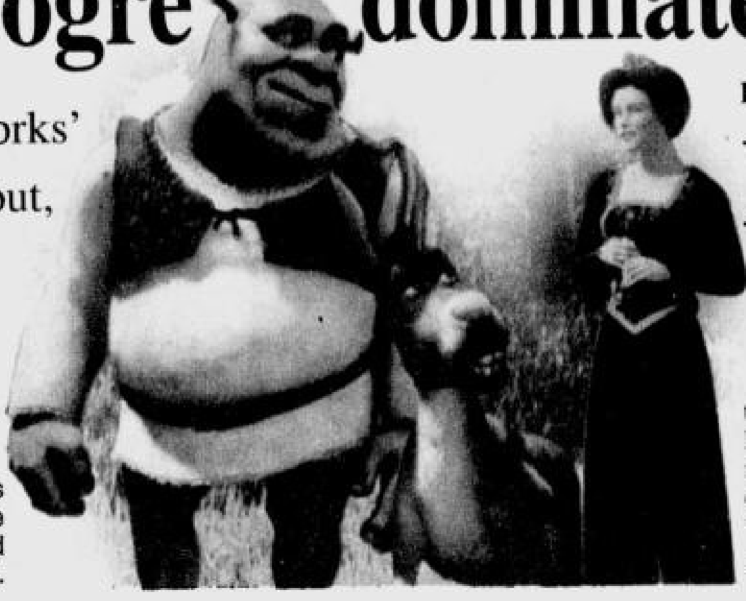
Saturday SPECIAL

NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor EDMUND L. SICAM, Associate Editor

Treat of the Week

Lovable ogre dominates North American box office

'Shrek' is DreamWorks' most successful debut, even topping 'Gladiator' which opened at $34.8 M



SHREK, Donkey and Princess Fiona are voiced by Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy and Cameron Diaz, respectively.

By Erica Werner

LOS ANGELES—DreamWorks won big at the North American weekend box office with "Shrek," a tale of an ogre with a heart that recorded the second-highest opening ever for an animated film, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Fairy-tale comedy

The computer-animated fairy-tale comedy featuring the voices of Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz, Eddie Murphy and John Lithgow earned $42.1 million during the weekend. That was second only to the $57.4 million audiences paid to see "Toy Story 2" when it debuted over the Thanksgiving 1999 holiday weekend.

LOVEABLE/P. C3

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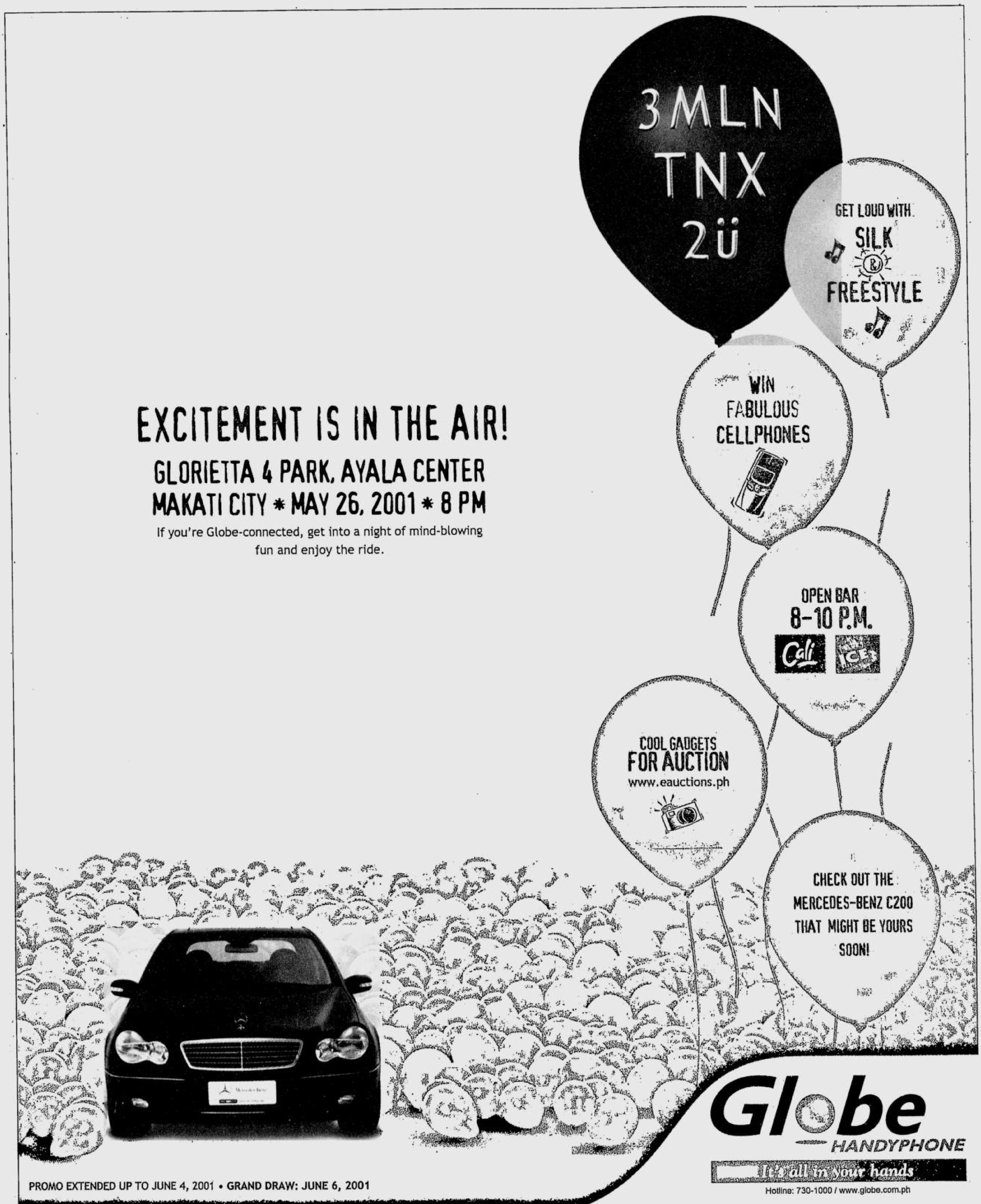

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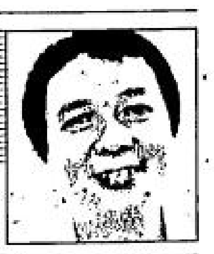
Best music-video artists known on June 8

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

THE BEST in music video-making will be honored by MTV Philippines with the MTV Pilipinas 2001 awards on June 8 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. The categories are Best New Artist, Group, Male, Female, Song, Director and Video.

New artist Kyla leads the field with five nominations, including Best New Artist and Video. Parokya ni Edgar follows with four, and new group Slapshock, Gary V and Jessa Zaragosa have three each.

Other nominees include Teeth, Eraserheads, Ogie Alcasid, Battery, Radioactive Sago Project, Kaya, Side A, Francis M, Mo Twister, Viktoria, Regine Velasquez and Lani Misalucha.

The MTV Pilipinas 2001 awards night will be aired on MTV Philippines on June 24 at 1 p.m. Guest performers include Vina Morales, Ana Fegi, Rico Blanco, Buddy Zabala and Tirso Ripol. Hosts are MTV's Donita Rose, KC, Belinda and Sarah.

Winners for Best New Artist, Group, Male, Female and Song were chosen by fans. Other winners were selected through a poll of people from the music and recording industry.

MTV Philippines is on Channel 41 for non-cable subscribers and Channel 32 for SkyCable subscribers.

Cannes filmfest winners

Last Sunday, the 2001 Cannes Film Festival's 10-member jury headed by Liv Ullman honored these winners:

Palme d'Or (Golden Palm), "The Son's Room," Nanni Moretti, Italy.

Grand Prize, "The Piano Teacher," Michael Haneke, Austria.

Best Director, Joel Coen, United States, "The Man Who Wasn't There," and David Lynch, United States, "Mulholland Drive."

Best Actor, Benoit Magimel, France, "The Piano Teacher."

Best Actress, Isabelle Huppert, France, "The Piano Teacher."

Best Screenplay, "No Man's Land," Danis Tanovic, Bosnia.

Golden Camera (first-time director), Zacharias Kunuk, Canada, "Atanarjuat, The Fast Runner."

Best Technical Contribution (Sound), "What Time Is It Over There?" and "Millennium Mambo," Tu Duu-Chih.

Palme d'Or for best short film, "Bean Cake," David Greenspan, United States.

TV treats

Today at 8 p.m. on Viva Cinema, "Narito ang Puso Ko" stars Lorna Tolentino. A mother goes off on her own to get justice for the death of her son.

Sunday, May 27 at 8 p.m. on Viva Cinema, "Lihim ni Madonna" topbills Sunshine Cruz and Tonton Gutierrez.

At 9 p.m. on Star Movies, "The Parent Trap" stars Lindsay Dohann as identical twins who are separated shortly after birth and brought up in different parts of the world.

Monday, May 28 at 8 p.m. on Channel [V] Int'l., "AM and PM Special: A1 in the Picture" features the hot boy band A1 and its latest videos.

Tuesday, May 29 at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Channel [V] Int'l., the "AM and PM Special" is on the 98 Degrees.

Wednesday, May 30 at 8 a.m., and 1 p.m., "AM and PM Special" focuses on the first UK tour of Bewitched.

Thursday, May 31 at 2 p.m. on Viva Cinema, "Matalino Man ang Matsing, Naiisahan Din" stars Eddie Garcia, Willie Revillame, Joanne Quintas and Patricia Javier.

Father's Day Camp

SNACK (Summer Nature and Arts Camp for Kids), the popular outdoor learning camp for children, recently hosted the Konika photo awards, and announces the holding of a Father and Child bonding activity in celebration of Father's Day Weekend on June 9 (at Mt. Talamitam—0917-6135986) and June 10 (Taal Yacht Club—043-7730192) in Batangas.

The Konika tilt, "Stop and Smell the Flowers," for SNACK 2001 participants, dealt with man and the environment. Winners John Fiel Villafana, Anna Dipasupil and Ory Drilon were awarded cameras and Konika film by Jackielou Blanco, Sharmaine Arnaiz, Lara and Paolo Fabregas, Ces Drilon and Konika's Helen Espuro.

The two-day Father's Day activity, billed as "Daddy's SNACK" and supported by nature grants from Zest-O, Pure Foods, Joey@ 92.3 and 105.1 Crossover, is open to 10 pairs of fathers and children.

Activities include team-building games supervised by LUBID, a lifestyle transformation session by Vivien Mangalindan, and sailing lessons from Olympian Nestor Soriano. Call camp director Bibsy Carballo at 721-0801, or e-mail bibsycar@pacific.net.ph

Trebel VCC

Homecable Videoke Channel 40 presents the Trebel Voice Color Code (VCC) Hour weekdays from 7-8 p.m.

Trebel VCC is also available in VHS and VCD modes at Odyssey and Video City outlets.

CALCARRIES model Verns Buckley with Lala Flores during Avon Color night. See more of Philippine Fashion Week Summer 2001 on E!

SNACK 2001 Konica 2nd place winner Anna Dipasupil (center), with Sharmaine Arnaiz (left) and Jackielou Blanco (right).

Side A at The Venue

The popular Side A band will perform at The Venue in Davao City at 9 p.m. today. The Venue is located at Quirino ave. corner Jacinto Extension, and is a one-stop venue for music lovers, sports fans (billiards, etc.) and food trippers.

'Dutch Treat'

Animated films from the Netherlands are being showcased in "Dutch Treat," a mini film festival currently being held (until May 27) at Shangri-La Plaza by the Royal Netherlands Embassy and Animagination, a group of Filipino independent animators. The event is being presented by director-producer Nico Crama.

Films to be shown include the 2001 Oscar awardee for Best Animated Short Film, "Father and Daughter," by Michael Dudok de Wit. The eight-minute work tells the story of a young girl who longs for her absent father.

Other films include "Three Misses" by Paul Drissen, "Sientje" by Christa Moesker, "Fuga" by Hams Nassentein, "Famous Paintings" by Maarten Koopman and "Stop the Greenhouse Effect" by Paul and Menno de Nooijer.

Four Filipino animated short films will also be screened: "Anak Maynila" by Nonoy Dadivas, "Doon sa Kabila ng Bulkan" by Ellen Ramos, "The Ghostwriter" by Joey Agbayani, and "Movements."

"Dutch Treat" will have regular screenings today and tomorrow, May 26-27, at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Cinema 2 at Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City.

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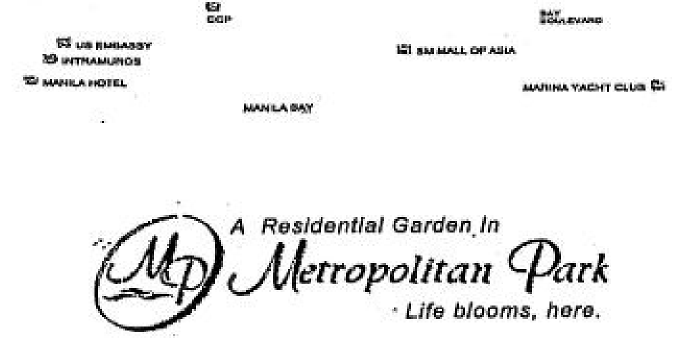

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For Announcement Purposes Only

Rosa Rosal's 51-year-long love affair

ROSAL. Ms Red Cross herself.

BY BEHN CERVANTES

I WAS tempted to start this article with the shocking line: Ms Rosa Rosal confesses she has maintained a 51-year love affair!

The affair has been going all these years, without let-up. In fact, she is more determined than ever to continue it.

Would the public be scandalized that the caring host of "Damayan" is carrying on in such a manner? I guess people would be perplexed, at the very least--until they discover that Rosa's love has been the Red Cross of the Philippines.

Contributions

She has worked tirelessly for the organization for more that half a century. No wonder, to many people, Rosa personifies the noteworthy contributions of the Red Cross, the life-saving campaigns of the Blood Bank as well as the various fine attributes of the international organization. To the many thousands she has helped all over the country, Rosa is Ms Red Cross herself.

Rosa is also one of the country's premiere dramatic actresses. She will be forever remembered as Lamberto V. Avellana's handpicked leading lady for two of his most famous films, "Anak Dalita" and "Badjao." Manny de Leon of LVN produced both classics for award purposes, and they accomplished just that, both here and abroad.

Before Rosa became recognized as an actors' actor, she was one of filmdom's most hated *kontrabidas*, the "bitch" who made life difficult for the coy leading lady and her handsome suitor. Rosa was forever in the way of their happiness. Of course, in the end, boy got girl while Rosa would suffer her just consequences.

Rosa entered the movies in 1947. She was introduced in the Nolasco Brothers film "Kamagong" starring Leopoldo Salcedo, then the King of Philippine Movies. Tall, dark and handsome Salcedo was the Philippines' answer to John Barrymore, because the actor from Cavite also had a great profile.

In her film debut, Rosa proved her mettle. She was the modern Filipina who went after the man of her choice, no matter if the Maria Clara-like leading lady wept her silly eyes out. On screen she smoked, drank, sang torch songs, danced sexy and, boy, did she wiggle when she walked! The joke was that Hollywood siren Marilyn Monroe copied Rosa's signature walk.

However, despite her screen persona, Rosa was not fond of nightclubbing and of the material pleasures expected of a screen star. She sought to do other things, more down-to-earth, more humane and important to the improvement of life.

Volunteer worker

By 1948, she was already a volunteer worker for the Red Cross, the international organization honored with the Nobel Prize four times over for its contribution to the alleviation of human suffering in war and times of disaster. On that same year, she was present when then President Elpidio Quirino donated his blood to the Red Cross Blood Bank Her interest in the work of the Blood Bank increased with every "bloodletting."

On July 4, 1950, Rosa Rosal, the screen star turned social worker, spearheaded the Blood Donation Campaign at the Muntinlupa Penitentiary. Since that auspicious day, Rosa's name has become permanently associated with blood donations and Red Cross work.

(To be concluded)

Lovable ogre dominates ...

(From page C1)

"It really did incredible business," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Exhibitor Relations, which tracks the box office.

"Shrek" was also DreamWorks' most successful debut ever, even topping its Oscar-winning "Gladiator," which opened at $34.8 million, said Jim Tharp, the studio's head of distribution.

The weekend's other major debut, the moody romantic drama "Angel Eyes," opened in fourth place with $9.5 million. The Warner Bros. film stars Jennifer Lopez as a tough cop saved from gunfire by a mysterious man with a connection to her past, played by Jim Caviezel.

Second place

In second place was "The Mummy Returns," last week's No. 1 and now in its third week of release. "The Mummy Returns" earned $20.5 million during the weekend, for a cumulative total of $146.5 million. On its first weekend, it raked in a record $68.1 million.

"A Knight's Tale," out two weeks, was in third place with $10.7 million, for a cumulative total of $32.2 million.

"Shrek" is the tale of a misanthropic ogre (Myers) whose swamp is overrun by fairy-tale creatures evicted from their lands by mean Lord Farquaad (Lithgow).

Murphy provides the voice of a talking donkey who journeys with Shrek to rescue Farquaad's betrothed (Diaz) so Shrek can get his privacy back. Needless to say, Shrek and the princess fall for each other.

"All ages can enjoy this movie and that's really key to its success," Dergarabedian said.

The film opened in 3,587 theaters, averaging an impressive $11,737 per location.

Limited release

"Moulin Rouge" opened in limited release, playing in only two theaters—New York's Ziegfeld and Los Angeles's Avco—to sold-out crowds and taking in a strong $165,086.

"I've been in the Avco four times in the weekend and people were standing and applauding. They love it. It's like a party," said Bruce Snyder, head of distribution at 20th Century Fox.

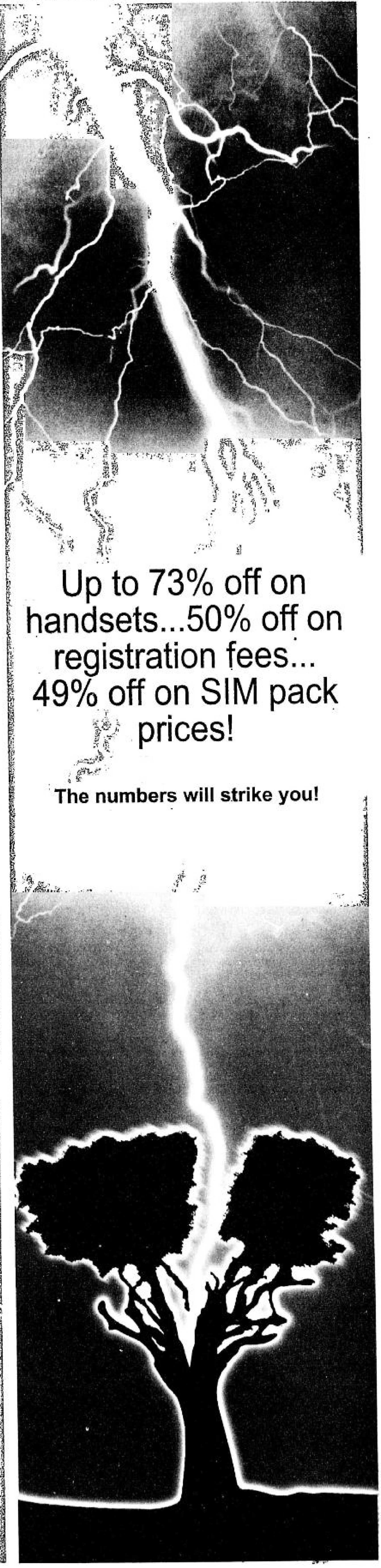
The film, which stars Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor and uses a broad cross-section of 20th century music, is scheduled to open nationwide June 1 in more than 2,000 theaters, he said.

Overall, the top 12 movies grossed $96.8 million, down 5.5 percent from the same weekend last year but up 36.2 percent from last weekend. The box office promises to emerge from its lull next weekend as the summer blockbuster season opens with "Pearl Harbor."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. :

1. "Shrek," $42.1 million.
2. "The Mummy Returns," $20.5 million.
3. "A Knight's Tale," $10.7 million.
4. "Angel Eyes," $9.5 million.
5. "Bridget Jones's Diary," $3.8 million.
6. "Along Came a Spider," $2.4 million.
7. "Driven," $1.9 million.
8. "Blow," $1.3 million.
9. "Spy Kids," $1.29 million.
10. "Memento," $1.28 million.

AP



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Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0600, Series of 2001

Andy Bais hits the spot in new musical-comedy revue

By Noelani Torre

ANDY with Christine Carlos (left) and Arlene Borja.

BAIS. Outstanding singer with a natural flair for comedy.

ANDY Bais—not yet a name that would elicit much of a reaction from show biz fans. But then again, neither did the names of the most famous stars—that is, before they got their lucky breaks. In the past of your most well-known entertainment personality is anonymity.

Andy isn't at all *that* unknown, however. As a matter of fact, he has been steadily building up a reputation for quality performances in the field of musical theater for the past decade.

Musical roots

Andy's musical roots grow very deep and far back into his past. He cannot remember a time when he wasn't singing. He was a regular in singing contests since he was old enough to talk--er, sing. He went through the whole circuit, from *barangay* to city-wide competitions. And he never lost a single contest. Not one.

It came to the point when fellow contenders would demand his withdrawal from the contests because he was "overqualified." They got bored with watching him walk away with the prize. Without realizing it, Andy had gone from amateur to professional in the space of several years of competitive singing.

Still, he did not pursue a professional singing career at first. He took up Mass Communications at Silliman University in his native Dumaguete and actually ended up with your usual nine-to-five office job. He wrote articles and then transferred to Neda, where he conducted development training for government planners. Definitely a far cry from his current occupation of belting it out on stage and sending audiences into throes of hysterical laughter.

Andy never stopped singing, though. As a matter of fact, in 1988, he sang duets with none other than Lea Salonga as they toured schools to promote sex education. This was before Lea's "Miss Saigon" success and Andy still remembers a song they sang: "I Still Believe."

Attention

Andy first caught the attention of the people behind the Fe Panlilio-sponsored singing contest held among members of the Organisasyon ng mga Pilipinong Mang-aawit, or OPM. The director of that show, after rejecting all the songs in Andy's repertoire, bluntly told him to look in the mirror and acknowledge that he didn't have much of a future as a romantic balladeer, despite his great voice. He advised Andy to do musical comedy instead.

Such frankness must have evoked some serious thinking if not a few tears from the rudely-awakened Andy. And awakened he was: He changed his approach—and went on to bag the grand prize!

Already gifted with a natural flair for comedy, it was a sensible thing to capitalize on it, as well as on his vocal talent.

The combination has never yet failed to wow an audience and send them home laughing at the same time. Andy has starred in numerous theater productions, among which are "Kenkoy Loves Rosing," "Magnifcat," "Bakhita," "Nasaan si Hesus?" "Huwag Pumayag sa Dagdag-Bawas," "Comedy Tonight," and "Etiquette for Mistresses." He has worked with such popular performers as Pinky Marquez, Dulce, Marco Sison, Ogie Alcasid, Mikee Cojuangco and Belinda Panelo.

Andy's roles usually involve a lot of singing, along with hilarious improvisations, impersonations and dialogue. He plays his parts naturally and he possesses a sincere desire to make his audiences happy, which they sense and greatly appreciate.

He has also ventured into film and television, acting in small roles and getting the general feel of the industry. Last year he starred in the comedy act "Beauty and the Best" and his one and only co-star was MTV VJ Belinda Panelo.

Laughter

They drove the audience at the RJ Bistro to near tears with laughter as they acted their hearts out on the small stage. Andy was not at all overshadowed by the eye-catching Belinda. With his witty delivery and his funny role-playing, he was equally eye-catching himself.

With such talents, one wonders why Andy Bais hasn't yet made it big. Well, a successful career doesn't get built overnight and, unfortunately, Andy hasn't had that many breaks—yet.

With his new project, a comedy show with the title "Andy Bais and a Cast of Thousands," Andy will finally have the limelight all to himself. The show allows him to explore and to go deeper as he plays many different characters—a big challenge for any actor.

We have great hopes for this comedian and singer, whose talents will surely earn him a well-deserved place in the sun. Andy's co-stars in the show are Arlene Borja and Christine Carlos.

"Andy Bais and a Cast of Thousands" premieres today at 8 p.m. at Where Else disco at Hotel Intercontinental in Makati City. For details, call Ariel this morning at 713-9323, 0917-9893089 or 0919-2986067.

Welcome
GMA Para
Kawal Cup

GEN. Angelo Reyes, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and former president Fidel Ramos at the Riviera Golf and Country Club.

Alay sa Kawal Foundation sustains military outreach program

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was the special guest at the GMA Para Sa Kawal Cup at Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite—a demonstration of the present political leadership's continuing support for the Filipino Kawal. It was on this occasion that the President donated one million pesos to Edgardo B. Espiritu, Chairman of the Alay Sa Kawal Foundation, for the widows and children of soldiers killed in action.

Rapport

The Alay Sa Kawal (ASK) Foundation was set up in May 1986 by a group of civilian professionals who wanted to establish rapport with the "new" armed forces, which were then going through an intense period of reform after the ouster of Ferdinand Marcos by the People Power Edsa Revolution.

ASK was founded immediately after the first post-Edsa encounter between elements of the 501st Infantry Brigade commanded by then Col. Thelmo Y. Cunanan. Sympathetic civilians realized how much help the bereaved soldiers' families needed.

The civilians decided to concentrate on improving the lot and welfare of the common soldier, the ordinary Filipino Kawal, rather than the officers. Alay Sa Kawal (ASK) Foundation was incorporated as a non-profit, non-stock and non-political NGO, and launched formally on Aug. 29, 1987, right after the failed coup attempt against President Corazon Aquino. As ASK President Ramon Pedrosa rightly put it, "Alay Sa Kawal was conceived in the aftermath of battle."

Welfare

In September 1992, soon after President Fidel Ramos assumed power, ASK was re-launched at Malacañang Palace.

Today ASK is proud to be the oldest and most active NGO dedicated exclusively to the welfare of the Filipino Kawal and his family.

The ASK Board, led by Chairman Edgardo B. Espiritu and President Ramon Pedrosa, began its military outreach program by helping the families of the soldiers who were killed in action. Later, the families of soldiers completely disabled in the line of duty were included in the cash program.

In 1986, the ASK Board began with a cash assistance of P2,000 per soldier family; today, it gives P10,000 per family and to date, ASK has assisted nearly 3,388 families of soldiers killed or disabled.

The assistance ASK gives is still a pittance, but it hopes to improve this as funds are raised with the assistance of generous donors. Over the years, ASK has had a wide range of benefactors, who range from young students donating their one day's *baon*, to the business community and the country's highest officials, including then President Ramos and then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Another important project of ASK is its scholarship program, begun in mid-1997, which is carried out in cooperation with the College Assurance Plan Foundation. This distance education program is open to soldiers wounded in action, dependents of soldiers killed or wounded in action and other qualified military and civilian personnel of the AFP and Defense Department.

Courses

Among ASK's graduates are widows and wives of soldiers, in such courses as Business Administration or Management, Journalism and Associate in Arts.

The aims of ASK:

1.To immediately extend financial assistance to the families of AFP enlisted personnel killed in combat, and soldiers critically wounded in action leading to Complete Disability Discharge (CDD) on or after April 24, 1986.

2. To conduct Field Fellowship directly with soldiers and their families in AFP camps, when feasible, at the Brigade or Battalion level; otherwise, at other assembly areas anywhere in the country to help boost the morale of our fighting troops;

3. To assist in the development of livelihood and income-generating projects of soldiers' families; and

4. To provide scholarship grants to deserving qualified enlisted personnel, dependents, and civilian employees of the Department of National Defense and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

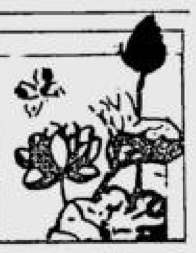
As of December 2000, the Foundation has extended cash assistance amounting to almost P13 Million. Livelihood Assistance was given to 125 beneficiary families.

Morale-boosting Field Fellowships were performed before battle-weary troops in 39 outposts. Scholarship Grants were extended to 136 AFP soldiers, dependents and civilian employees of the AFP/DND.

Making the most of what you have

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia



BY WISELY observing the lives of other people, we can learn some valuable lessons that can help us grow as individuals and inspire us to attain noble goals.

Today I would like to share with you a true story that I hope will give you light and hope.

Polio

It's about Itzhak Perlman, the well-known violinist and concert performer who was stricken with polio at a young age. Everyone who has attended his concerts knows the painstaking ritual that he has to undergo even before he plays his violin.

Since both legs are handicapped, he wears braces on both of them and uses crutches to move around. "Walking" on stage is a slow procedure until he sits down to undo the clasps on his legs. He then positions his legs comfortably before he picks up the violin, assumes the proper form and then signals the conductor to play.

During one of his concerts in 1995, a problem arose and yet the outcome that night proved that he was indeed a great violinist. After the initial few bars, one of the strings on his violin snapped and he had to stop performing.

Many people expected him to put his braces back on, pick up his crutches, and walk backstage to get another violin or string. He didn't. What he proceeded to do was quite unheard of and extraordinary: He signaled the conductor and he played his violin with the remaining three strings!

Violin

Anyone who has played a guitar or violin with a missing string knows how terrible the sound can be. How much more playing a concert piece on such a "handicapped" instrument? But Perlman produced wonderful music from his "disabled" violin!

He focused his mind and heart on the task at hand and, with great passion and skill, brought forth beautiful music that held his audience spellbound. At the end, the audience rose to its feet to give him a standing ovation.

And, in a humble voice, Perlman told them, "You know, sometimes it is the artist's task to find out how much music you can still make with what you have left."

We are not violinists, but we are all spirit souls who have much to accomplish with our existence in this world. We all have to render humble service to the Supreme Conductor and Master of our lives. We have the duty to seek our eternal home and destination—the abode of the Supreme Father.

Yet, we often find reasons why we cannot serve the Lord or devote our lives to spirituality. We look at our handicapped existence and say, "Look, I'm disabled, I don't have what it takes. I'm not a saint, I can't do it because I'm a sinner."

Equipment

What we have left at the end of the day is our eternal spirituality as children of God. The equipment that we have—our bodies, our minds, our intelligence—may all be broken but we have God's unconditional love for us and He wants to help us get back home. We, too, have our love that needs to be offered to Him.

The story of our lives is that we are prodigal children suffering in this miserable material existence. We're lost but we can re-establish our relationship with our loving Father. And if we simply focus our hearts and minds with great love and determination on the pursuit of this meaningful purpose, then the Supreme Conductor Himself will assist us in our journey back home.

AM/FM

'South Pacific' still enchants after 52 years

By Rito P. Asilo

IF YOU like show tunes, you probably don't expect to hear them on the radio—and with good reason. Pop music dictates the format and programming of most radio stations these days because it is what sells, and what sponsors demand. But some of these songs are just too good to be easily forgotten. And dzFE 98.7 on the FM band makes sure you remember them.

Haunting

Tuning in to dzFE on a weeknight, we thought hearing Muriel Smith sing the haunting "Bali H'ai," from the musical "South Pacific," was just a case of perfect timing for us. But we were pleasantly surprised to hear "Some Enchanted Evening," "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outta My Hair," "Younger than Springtime" and "Happy Talk" played one after the other. The durability of these songs is testament to Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II's musical legacy.

It has been 52 years since the stage adaptation, starring Mary Martin and Ezio Pinza, of James Michener's novel about life on a Pacific island during World War II debuted on Broadway. In 1958, nine years later, "South Pacific" was adapted for the big screen, starring Rossano Brazzi (as Emile de Becque) and Mitzi Gaynor (as Nellie Forbush).

The soundtracks of both stage and film versions were so popular that they are among the four chart-topping albums to stay longest at number one in the history of Billboard. The original cast recording was number one for 69 weeks, while the movie soundtrack stayed on top for 31 weeks! The other two are Michael Jackson's "Thriller" and another soundtrack, "West Side Story."

Opera star

But what is not much known about the movie and its soundtrack is that a lot of the singing parts of its actors were dubbed by other singers. Rossano Brazzi's singing parts were dubbed by opera star Georgio Tozzi. Juanita Hall, who originated the role of Bloody Mary on Broadway and played the same part in the movie, was voiced by Muriel Smith, who had played the part in London. Sadly, these artists have remained uncredited.

To this day, songs from the musical still enjoy radio airplay. Another proof of this popularity is that when "South Pacific" was re-staged on Broadway in 1995, even a soundtrack featuring only the understudies was released! And a TV movie was shown this year in the U.S., with its own soundtrack, starring Rade Sherbedgia as Emile, Harry Connick Jr. as Lt. Joseph Cable, and--hold your breath--Glenn Close as Nellie Forbush!

At 53, Close may be a bit long in the tooth to play Nellie, but reviews indicated that she was the best of the singing lot! Makes you wonder what this woman can't do.

Other than songs from "South Pacific," we also heard classical versions of Psalm 23, "Amazing Grace," and "Pie Jesu" (featuring ingenue Charlotte Church on vocals) on dzFE.

We marvel at how often this particular song gets consistently included in Webber's albums. Between 1988 to 2000, this has been part of nine of his compilations!

If dzFE offers music for the soul, the radio program "Heartline," anchored by Paul Pascua with special guest counsellor Ester Acena, over dzAS 702 on the AM band, dishes out advice to people with problems.

Twist

But this is "radio counselling with a twist," unlike those offered by *Tiya* Dely, Kuya Cesar, Joe D'Mango, *Kuya* Eddie or the late *Ate* Helen (Vela). After Acena shares her thoughts about issues, she prays over them.

People call in, tell their stories and their problems. *Ate* Ester, as she is fondly called, discusses issues with the listeners. She sounds sincere but sometimes the situations are so complicated or heartbreaking that she takes sometime to react and respond, so she buys time by repeating her questions.

The issues are very real and contemporary. We were surprised that a lot of the problems had to do with premarital sex. Consider these: a woman who has been living-in with her boyfriend suddenly finds herself pregnant and boyfriend-less, and he refuses child support. Another woman lives in with a man who later leaves her, she finds and marries another guy, but she crosses paths with her former boyfriend again and is being convinced to leave the husband for him. A boyfriend supposedly rapes his girlfriend then leaves her, she meets him a year later and has sex with him again!

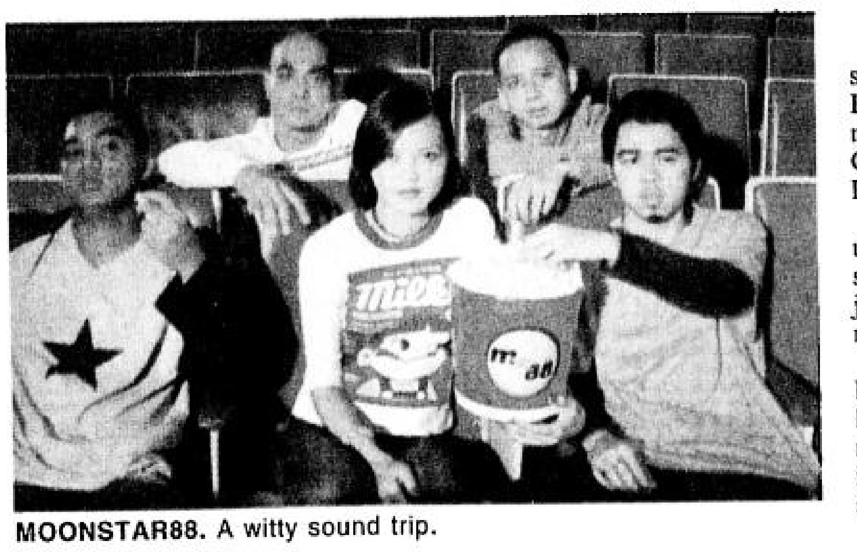
And a long-engaged couple wonders if they should marry despite being financially unstable; a girl knows that her boyfriend got someone pregnant before she accepted him and is now in the same boat; a father and mother agonize over their young son's penchant for stealing money from them and from his classmates—!

After listening to all these problems, you can end up exasperated. Sometimes, truth is really stranger than fiction!

ALBUM REVIEWS

Romantic anthems for today's lovers

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA



MOONSTAR88. A witty sound trip.

Pure Harmony
3rd Angle
Sony Music

THIS is cruising music at its best. Even if you're driving, you won't get distracted by the melodies, lyrics and vocal blending of Skye, Rafi and Gen. It's sweet pop and smooth R&B, mixed with their own spunky flavor.

"Say It's True" is about knowing that a break-up is near but the girl is in denial. She wants reassurance that her man will never leave her and she wants him to say, "I love you."

You'll feel the sadness and the loneliness in the lyrics and the melody but the restraint is there, so it's more painful when you really listen.

"Haunted Heart" turns the tables around. Finally, girls don't appear to be lovesick fools anymore, but are heartbreakers themselves. Using girlish charms and true affection, a girl wins a guy's heart hands down! The guy is totally devoted and in love.

In fact, this song seems to have gone overboard, because she knows she has him wrapped around her finger, so she can do whatever she wants with him and his "haunted heart."

Lyrics like "With one touch, you're mine for good. It's working just the way I planned" appear to be heartless and cruel. And the line, "I change your thoughts, your mind's unclear" feels manipulative and scheming.

"Langit" is again about unrequited love. The melody is good and has recall. After hearing it once, you're bound to hum it the entire day.

"Again and Again" is a good swoon song. It clearly depicts what it's like to really be in love. Being forgiven over and over again after making so many mistakes. Overlooking the fact that you're being taken for granted because you want to be patient and just love. Nope, the girl is not the martyr this time, but her boyfriend is.

"Maaari Ba" shows that indeed times have changed. Not only does the girl make the first move, she also reveals her true emotions by saying "I love you" first. And along the way, she's waiting for him to declare that he also feels the same way about her.

"Smiles We Left Behind" is about girl bonding. It's carefree but serious, innocent but witty. A song that makes you grateful for having true and loving friends.

Popcorn
Moonstar88
Alpha Records

If you're looking for a good, witty sound trip, this one's for you. Acel Bisa (vocals and guitars) can definitely give Barbi Almabis (Barbi's Cradle) and Cookie Chua (Color It Red) stiff competition.

"Torete" is a clever way to sum up the feeling of being in love. Crazy, silly, restless, anxious and confused just don't cut it. It's melodious in a raucous sort of way.

"Bata" is laid-back, carefree, melodic and brilliant. It has fun and silliness written all over it. It playfully narrates how a past experience, being treated like a child in a relationship, feels.

"I'm Sorry" makes you empathize with guys when they have to apologize. Whether it's sincerely or acerbically written is beside the point, it just shows that they're very human.

"Untamed," "Doors" and "Thanks" are catchy tunes but urge us to feel some contrition. It delivers a message of faith and hope without being preachy and superficial.

"Sa Langit" is a good *masa* song. It's dripping with sentiment, anxiety and longing. It has lyrical depth with harmonic flair.

This album grows on you. You might breeze through it the first time for a cool sound trip, but the second time around, it leaves you begging for more.

> 'Pure Harmony' is cruising music at its best. Even if you're driving, you won't get distracted by the melodies

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JUNE 29-JULY 1	PLAZA FAIR MAKATI

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MAY 22-27	GAISANO METRO MANDAUE
MAY 29 JUNE 3	GAISANO MACTAN
JUNE 5-10	GAISANO TABUNOK
JUNE 12-17	G J GAISANO COLON
JUNE 19-24	WHITE GOLD CLUB
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JUNE 1-3	SOUTH SUPERMARKET MALOLOS
JUNE 15-17	SOUTH SUPERMARKET LOS BAÑOS
JUNE 29-JULY 1	SOUTH SUPERMARKET STA. ROSA
JULY 6-8	ULTRA MEGA BULACAN

DAVAO	
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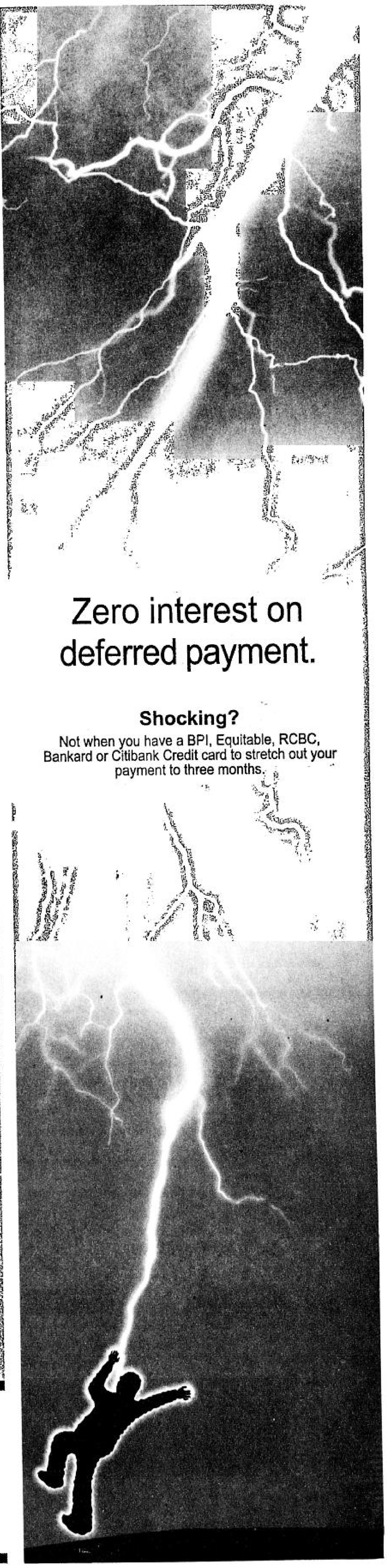
MAY 29-31	FELCRIS-SALES
JUNE 1-3	GAISANO DADIANGAS
JUNE 5-8	GENSAN FITMART
JUNE 9-13	KIMBALL PLAZA
JUNE 14-17	MARBEL FITMART
JUNE 19-22	MARBEL ACE
JUNE 23-27	KCC SHOPPING MARBEL
JUNE 28-JULY 1	TACURONG FITMART



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TWO FOR THE SHOW

Rufa Mae has a lot to smile about these days

BY MARY ANN BAUTISTA AND RICKY T. GALLARDO

SHARING stellar billing with Bayani Agbayani in "Baliktaran" and her stints on "Larawan" and "Idol Ko si Kap" keep Rufa Mae Quinto happy these days.

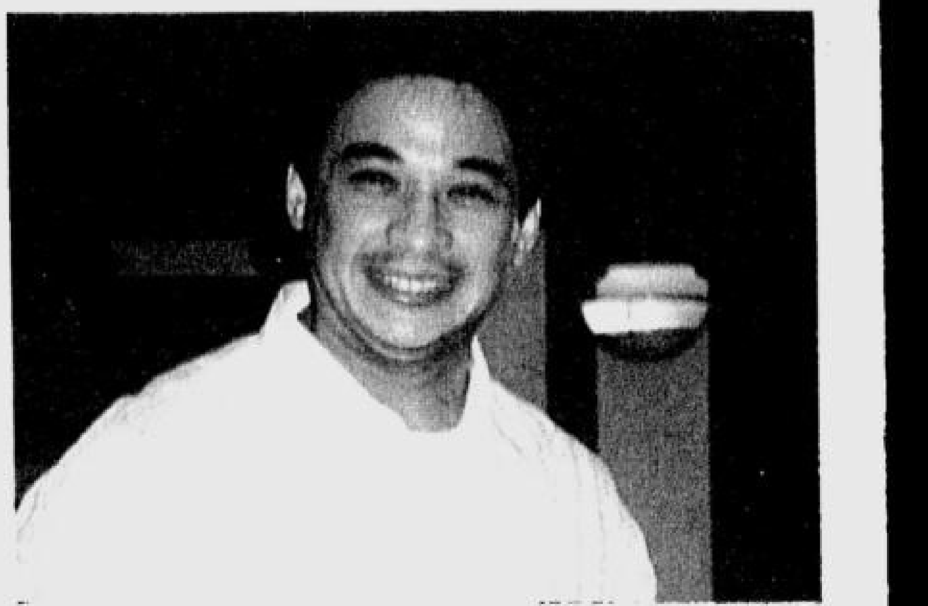
A naughty grin lights up her face when she says that her boyfriend, basketball star Rudy Hatfield, inspires her. "He's made me appreciate movies more. *Halos araw-araw, nanonood siya ng sine. Nahawa tuloy ako sa kanya.*"

Rufa admits that she has become more health-conscious because Rudy is an athlete. She says that they're both down-to-earth, sweet and playful. "*Pareho kaming kalog. Hindi siya* feeling *guwapo. Tinatawag nga niya ang sarili niya na* dork."

The sweetest thing that Rudy did for her was to give her a gift during *his* birthday. Rufa exclaims, "*Di ba nakakapagtaka iyon,* birthday *niya, siya ang nagbigay ng regalo? At tinalbugan pa niya ang regalo ko!*"

Big improvement noted in new TV personalities

Over the past few months, we've noted that some of television's newest personalities have shown improvement in their work.



DAVAO. Birthday boy.

We've followed Miriam Quiambao of "Extra! Extra!" from her days as beauty queen to her theater debut, and now as a host-anchor for the daily afternoon show of Channel 7.

Although we feel that she looks prettier with longer hair, it cannot be denied that she's been doing her assignments well and has become assertive and confident in her delivery. Quiambao enunciates more clearly now and has added a lot of personality and style to her performance.

Another much-improved talent is "The Probe Team's" Robert Alejandro, who has learned to "romance" the camera and connect with his subjects. In the program's segment last Tuesday, which showed Alejandro enjoying the lovely sights of Camiguin Island, he was knowledgeable about the destinations he chose to feature.

"TV Patrol's" "import" from Mindanao, Aljo Bendigo, scores high in terms of presence and personality.

"Talk TV's" younger pair, Ryan Agoncillo and Janet McBride, have good chemistry and both are learning fast. Agoncillo is now genuinely spontaneous and McBride is starting to shed off some of her inhibitions.

While these talents are improving, others are still wreaking havoc on the boob tube. Take the ensemble of hosts on Channel 13's noontime show "Lunch Break." They often make caricatures of themselves and turn their program into a *perya*-cum-sleazy sing-along rocky-horror show.

Chris Garcia shines in theatre debut

Top model turned TV host Chris Garcia almost turned his back on the entertainment business not too long ago. He was disillusioned with the general state of the business and the many compromises one has to make to surge ahead.

During his hibernation from show biz, Garcia chose to lead a simple life with his wife Erika Fife and daughter, doing product endorsements and hosting jobs for corporate events.

Recently, he was tapped to act in the wonderful play "Mother Tongue," staged by Actor's Actor Company, and he did very well.

We caught the last performance of the play and were impressed by Garcia's performance. He played Eric Swanson, a student who gave Bart Guingona's professor of languages character added dimension and color. Garcia had very good timing, and showed consistency and control.

We had a brief talk with him after curtain call and he shared that he has finally found his 'art.' ``Theatre has always struck me as something strange and elitist, but after this experience, I know it has opened a lot of possibilities for me. Now, I have set aside initial plans of early retirement from the entertainment business," he beamed.

Birthday greetings

Four friends in the business are celebrating their birthdays one after the other:

No-holds-barred talk show host and manager Lolit Solis turned 56 last Sunday and feels there is so much to be thankful for, despite the fact that two of her closest talents lost in the recent elections. "*Syempre* sad *ako* for Rudy (Fernandez), *lalo na kay* Bong (Revilla), *pero ganyan talaga ang buhay sa politika, mas malakihan minsan ang mga* scam *na nagaganap,*" show biz world's former scam queen intones.

Nay Lolit, as she is fondly called, says that after going through so many ups and downs herself, she has learned to take things in stride. She says she now enjoys travelling, "but only to Asian countries." She adds, "*Kasi pag* long-haul flights, *sumasakit ang ulo ko, ganyan siguro pag tumatanda na!*"

Cherry Pie Picache is glad that she can take some days off to do the things that she enjoys, now that the long-running soap "Saan Ka Man Naroroon" has ended. "Maybe I can make up for the lost time in my personal life," she teases, hinting that she might just consider making some important announcement soon. "*Pagbibigyan ko muna ang sarili ko, ang sarili kong matagal-tagal ko na ring sinusubsob sa trabaho.*"

She is looking forward to playing good parts again, like the one she did for Tony Gloria's "American Adobo," shot entirely in the United States.

Like Picache, birthday boy Ricky Davao is included in "American Adobo," where he plays another gay role. Davao won acclaim for his brave portrayal of a closet teacher in "Ang Lalaki sa Buhay ni Selya" a few years ago, and recently drew raves again for his felt performance in the film "Minsan May Isang Puso."

He continues to be part of the TV show "Oka Tokat" and wishes that his dream of directing his first feature film becomes a reality soon.

Zsa Zsa Padilla turns a year older early next week and says, "Life has really been good, and there's not much to ask for, except for continued good health for me and my family."

She is preparing for her birthday concert at the Captain's Bar this coming week, titled "In My Life," where she'll be singing songs which have become part of her colorful career and personal life. We hope she bags another meaty film role soon.

To *Nay* Lolit, Pie, Ricky and Zsa Zsa — Cheers!

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Westlife in summer's biggest musical event

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Westlife, today's hottest Irish band, has not only achieved such a rare distinction in just three short years, but continues to conquer millions of music lovers worldwide.

Musical reunion

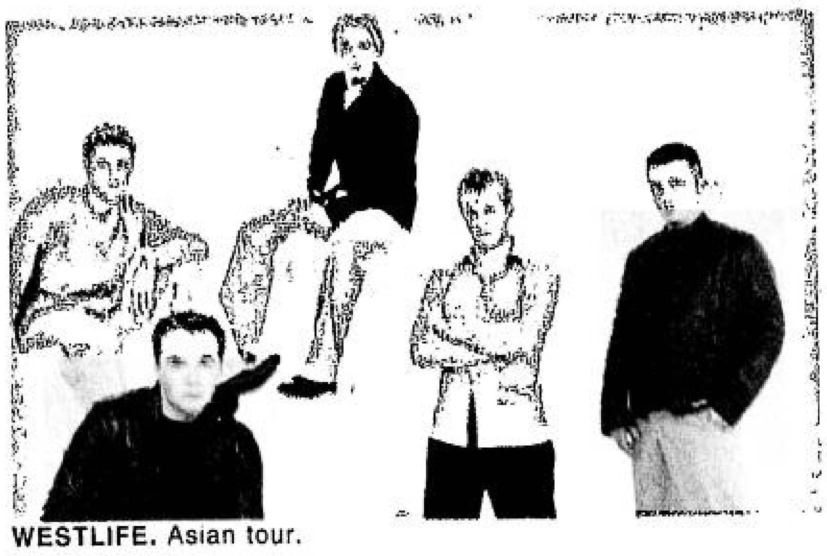
The popular Irish quintet, which is behind the No. 1 hit "I Lay My Love On You," returns to Manila for a musical reunion with its local fans during a one-night live concert to be held on May 29, at 8 p.m., at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City.

To be featured as support acts are German pop sensation Christian Wunderlich and promising local singer Anna Fegi.

Billed as "Westlife Live in Manila," the show is the fifth leg of the band's 13-day, seven-nation Asian swing dubbed as "Coast to Coast 2001 Asian Tour" and geared to promote its latest and second album of the same title.

The Asian tour, which kicked off on May 22 in Bangkok, will also cover Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Seoul and Hong Kong until June 3 before returning to Japan.

"Westlife Live in Manila" is presented by Nestle La Cremeria in cooperation with BMG Records, Young Star, the Friday Lifestyle section of the Philippine Star, and with the support of MTV Asia and Manila Galleria Suites.



WESTLIFE. Asian tour.

Popularity

The quintet, which made its successful debut performance here on May 9, 2000 at the Folk Arts Theater, returns on a wave of massive popularity as Asia's No. 1 selling international artists following the quintuple platinum status of "Coast to Coast," and its return to the top of the charts with its eighth No. 1 single, "Uptown Girl" (a remake of the Billy Joel classic).

Local fans also continue to swoon over the romantic strains of its current single, "I Lay My Love On You," a certified radio hit, whose video was shot in Asia.

The Westlife saga began three years ago in Sligo in Dublin, Ireland when Shane Filan, 20, Kian Egan, 19 and Mark Feehily, 19, decided to form a band after their successful performance together in their school's production of the musical, "Grease."

The big break of the band, which initially became known as IOU, came when it caught the attention of Boyzone's Svengali manager, Louis Walsh, who subsequently forged an agreement with Ronan Keating to act as co-manager. With the selection of Nicky Bryne, 21, and Bryan McFadden, 19, as new members, Westlife was born.

After performing with the Backstreet Boys and Boyzone in Ireland and the UK, the band stunned audiences on the Smash Hits Tour around England, earning for it the Best New Tour Act Award at the Smash Hits Awards in December 1998, following the footsteps of previous winners Boyzone, Backstreet Boys and Five.

Debut single

In April 1999, the band, now known as Westlife, released its debut single, "Swear it Again," which climbed to the top of the British and Irish charts and became the biggest-selling debut single ever in Ireland.

This was followed by four consecutive record-breaking No. 1 hits, including the highly-coveted Christmas and Millennium No. 1, giving the group the distinction of being the only boy band to have its first four singles debut at No. 1 in the UK.

Its highly anticipated self-titled debut album, released in November 1999, is now quintuple platinum in the UK, 14 x platinum in Ireland, 10 x platinum in the Philippines and with over six million copies sold worldwide.

From it came an unprecedented five UK No. 1 singles: "Swear It Again" (March '99) "If I Let You Go" (August '99) and "Flying Without Wings" (October '99), which stunned listeners with a maturity of style previously unknown in a boy band.

Top spot

Next, the double A-side cover "I Have A Dream/Seasons in the Sun" slid easily into musical history books as Christmas/Millennium No. I and remained at the top spot for two more weeks, while the fifth tide "Fool Again" gained another first place in March 2000.

Westlife has gained a rapidly building US fan base ("Swear It Again" peaked at No. 2 in the Billboard Sales Chart and reached gold status with sales over half a million), moving the boys to the distinction of becoming the only European pop band to conquer America since the Spice Girls.

Its superstar pedigree was confirmed in September 2000 when the Mariah Carey collaboration "Against All Odds" broke even their own record personal best when it became the sixth Westlife single to reach UK No. 1.

Maxine interprets entry in Metropop

By Jocelyn Valle

MAXINE. Joined talent competitions in Canada.

"IF YOU had a chance to get him, why not?" asks arranger Kahlil Refuerzo, referring to composer Louie Ocampo and lyricist Joey Ayala's good fortune of having Martin Nievera as the interpreter of their entry to the Metropop 2001 that will conclude tonight at one of the new studios of Channel 7.

"His participation adds prestige to the songwriting competition. *Walang* hard feelings *ang ibang* finalists."

Reaction

"But at first," interjects Dada de Pano-Supnet, whose "Unbelievable" song is arranged by Refuerzo, "our reaction was, 'Oh, no!' Now, however, we're happy that Martin is competing. We're grateful to Louie for bringing Martin into the Metropop."

This is the first time Martin is joining the annual songwriting contest since GMA 7 revived it in 1996 but he was part of the Sixth Metro Manila Popular Music Festival in 1983 as interpreter of Alvina Sy's top prizewinner, "Pain."

The difference? He's now the undisputed Concert King whose voice and stage presence electrify fans of both live and recorded entertainment. This is good for the TV ratings and CD sales of this year's edition of Metropop but how do the other interpreters feel about competing against one of the superstars of the music industry?

"OK *lang*," replies newcomer Maxine. "The songs are the ones competing and not really the singers." She feels nervous, nonetheless. "It's good *na kabahan*," she points out. "But when I'm on stage, I don't get nervous anymore. I tell myself to always do my best."

Tactic

The tactic hasn't let Maxine down since she started joining talent competitions in 1995 in Canada, where she was born 19 years ago to Filipino immigrants working as a registered nurse (her mom) and a laboratory technician (her dad).

In 1995, she copped the grand prize in both the Northland's Youth Talent Quest and the American Showstopper Competition.

She has fond memories sharing the limelight with another Canadian talent, Tamiya, who's now married to NBA cager Grant Hill.

"We were the only ones who could excel in the song and dance category," Maxine remembers. "Later on, when my younger sister began to join competitions, too, we became the 'dreaded' Santos sisters."

The only time Maxine failed to bring home the bacon, so to speak, was when she participated in a competition held in Tennessee, USA. The sad experience inspired the young performer to do better.

And her tenacity came in handy when she decided three years ago to start a career in her parents' homeland, upon the encouragement of her former manager, Pilita Corrales, who saw promise in her performance as one of the front

MAXINE/p.C8

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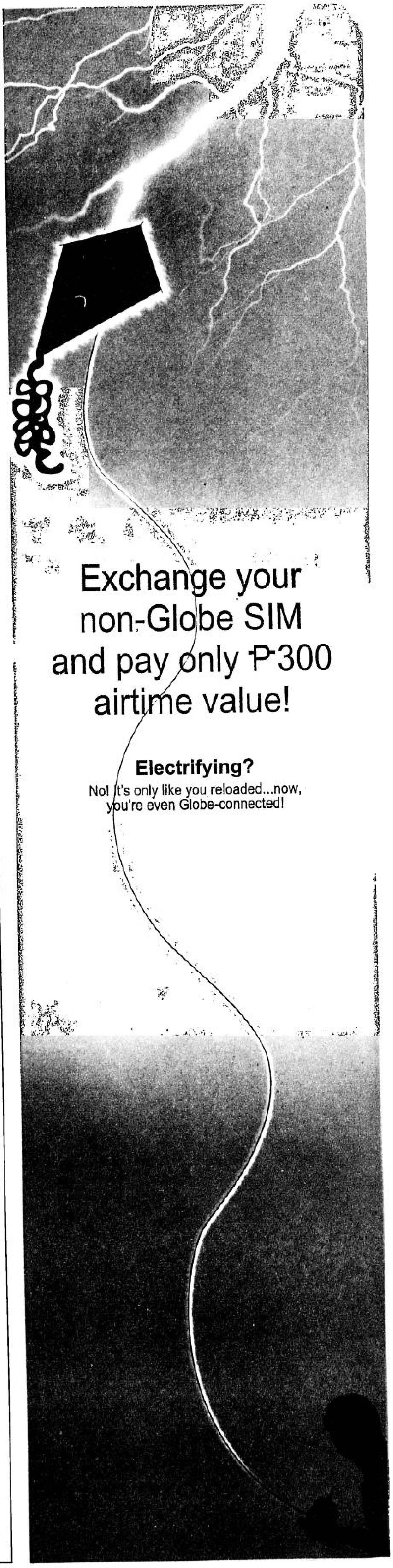
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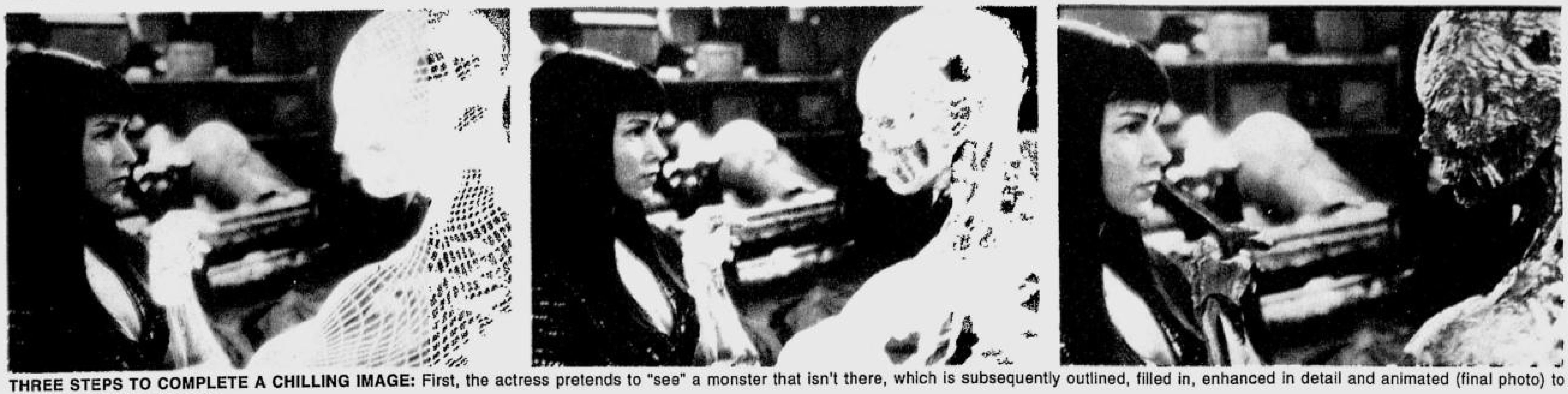


THREE STEPS TO COMPLETE A CHILLING IMAGE: First, the actress pretends to "see" a monster that isn't there, which is subsequently outlined, filled in, enhanced in detail and animated (final photo) to shock and thrill moviegoers.

'THE MUMMY RETURNS'

Special effects come to life again

VISUAL effects are a vital component of action-adventure films and the effects for the original "The Mummy" set a high standard for the films that followed it. Writer/Director Stephen Sommers was determined to out-do that film's thrill quotient for the sequel, "The Mummy Returns."

Academy Award-winner John Berton, who masterminded and led the effects team for both films at the world-renowned Industrial Light & Magic (ILM) was equally determined to surpass their earlier triumph.

New tools

Berton had new tools available for the sequel. "The technology has improved vastly over the past two years," he explained. His team used the latest computer-generated special effects and animation techniques to make Imhotep, The Scorpion King, and their many cronies and minions such dazzling predators.

Arnold Vosloo, who portrays the reconstituted mummy, enjoyed the technical challenge of acting for the effects sequences with the Scorpion King. "It can be tricky for an actor because for certain parts of the film, you are reacting to something you think you can imagine, but of course ILM's imagination is far wider than you can ever hope yours to be."

Information

To ensure that the effects blended seamlessly with the cinematography, Berton and his team were always on hand when Sommers shot scenes that involved visual effects. "We needed to bring as much information to ILM as we could in order to rebuild the set in the computers," explained Berton.

"We have a group of technicians we refer to as our camera match-move team, who track and measure the camera positions, which way they point, what the lenses are, everything. If the camera is moving, they know not only where it started and ended, but where it was in the middle and how fast it got there. All these things are really important for us to take a synthetic image and place it in the same space as the real image."

Maxine . . .

(From page C7)

acts of Asia's Queen of Songs' concert in Canada.

Goals

Maxine is now slowly but surely achieving her goals. The carrier single, "Ilang," in her debut album, "One Day at the Time," is getting noticed by the public. She doesn't have to convince her fellow radio personalities to play her song since listeners ask for it.

Yes, Maxine is also the voice behind RX 93.1's afternoon newscast and its "Generation RX" program, and likewise the face in Penshoppe's print ads.

She has to say no to TV and film offers, though. "I want to focus on singing," explains Maxine, who bears a resemblance to Joyce Jimenez. "I don't want to confuse my audience. Maybe later, when I'm an established singer *na*. For now, concerts *muna*. I just love to perform before a live audience."

Maxine owes her singing talent from her mom, the former Linda Ignacio, who used to sing professionally. She got her first lessons at age four from her mother. Her dancing ability, on the other hand, was nurtured when she turned 11 and started attending classes at the Sherwood Park School of Dance.

Dance tunes showcase Maxine's dexterity at the two disciplines. Kahlil was convinced when he saw her perform at the Hard Rock Café. This made her the perfect choice for interpreting Supnet's upbeat tune that, at initial listening, reminds me of M2M's first hit song, "Don't Say You Love Me."

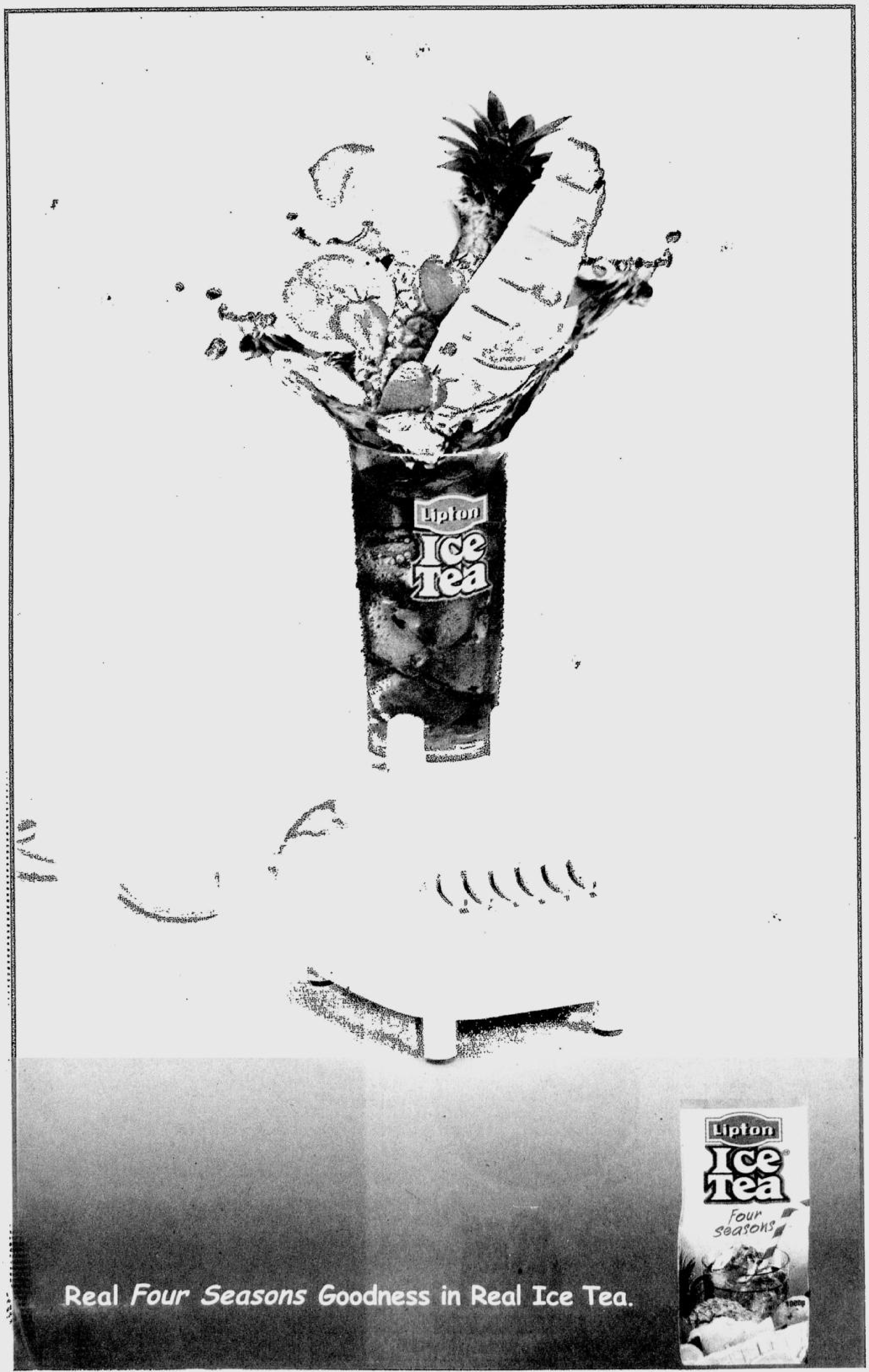
Failed relationship

"Maxine was highly recommended by my friends," says Dada. "But I was looking for someone older because the song is about a woman who's recovering from a failed relationship. It's like she's saying, '*Di mo na ako maloloko*.'

"Cookie Chua had agreed to interpret it but she had to back out because of a show abroad. Then I tried Dawn Dineros but she was out of the country."

"I guess the song is really meant for Maxine," she adds. "When we talked to her manager, *wala na kaming naging problema*."

Dada has been joining the Metropop since 1996 but it's only this year that she has qualified for the finals. She feels the little fellow in her tummy is her lucky charm. Maxine, with her winning streak in competitions, is another ace up her sleeve. Backstage chitchat with Martin will be a bonus.



Women make the difference on ABS-CBN News

FROM left: Carmelita Valdez, Cherry Mercado, Nadia Trinidad and Connie Sison risked life and limb to cover the May 1 riots.

"I COULDN'T believe what happened—I've covered other rallies and the Abu Sayyaf, but I've never gotten this much harassment," says ABS-CBN News' Doris Bigornia, one of the five brave women reporters who made their mark on the gates of Mendiola—and in the hearts of viewers—during the riots of May 1.

Damage

When the Estrada supporters at the Malacañang gates began to riot, ABS-CBN was one of the organizations that had to bear the brunt of the damage, with P7 million worth of burnt and looted equipment and vehicles, including four crew cabs, among the network's losses.

But when the smoke cleared, ABS-CBN's female reporters were standing tall, as their reports on both the day-long coverage of the riots and on the evening newscasts "TV Patrol" and "ABS-CBN Headlines" proved that they were more than equal to their male counterparts, and just as willing to risk life and limb for the story.

Although the network fielded veteran male reporters like Ed Lingao, Patrick Paez, Robert Tan and Jay Ruiz, it was the distaff side of the newsroom that carried the day—and took home the most action-packed footage to prove it.

Doris Bigornia was chased down by rallyists carrying large pieces of wood as weapons. Nadia Trinidad had her hair pulled by irate "loyalists." "Alas Singko Y Medya's" Cherie Mercado and her staff were pelted with large rocks while still in the crew cab.

Looting

Carmelita Valdez saw her vehicle looted and burnt. And, earlier in the week, "Hoy Gising's" Connie Sison was chased down and berated by the crowd during Estrada's arrest at Greenhills.

"We were being warned by the police to not go in—*sabi nila, 'Miss Doris, huwag ka nang pumasok, papatayin ka ng mga iyan,*"' recalls Bigornia, who was already a familiar face to the rallyists—they pelted her with wads of paper and water bottles when she began covering the pro-Estrada rallies at the Edsa Shrine.

Aggression

"But I was desperate to get footage. We were the only people able to penetrate the Mendiola-Legarda area. And then the police started firing, so the crowd started to run to where we were. And since they could not take their aggression out on the police, *kami yung napagbuntunan ng galit nila.*"

Carmelita Valdez was luckier because she was farther from the melee than Doris, but the crew's vehicle and possessions were not spared by the rioters.

"I remember telling the cameraman to shoot the fire in the middle of the street—little did I know that it was our crew cab burning! We didn't know what to do. Thirty minutes later, we went to the police station to talk to the rioters the police had apprehended, and they handed me this green bag. It was all that was left of the things we had in the car."

"The thing is, I had to do it, *kung hindi wala akong ire-report,*" says Doris. "So on my end, I saw the video, and it had everything we wanted. But, was it worth risking our lives? I think I speak for all of us in the News and Current Affairs Group when I say that when we are there, nothing is more important than the story.

History in the making

"Harassment or not, this is history happening right before our eyes, and we need to catalogue what happens, because it will never happen like this again, and we have to be there for the viewers. That, to us, is what broadcast journalism is all about."

AXN unveils anime action strip contest

SINGAPORE—AXN Asia is giving fans and artists region-wide the chance to create their very own manga-style action strip in the AXN Anime Action Strip Contest ongoing till June 15.

Kicking off the AXN Anime Festival 2001, the Anime Action Strip Contest is open to two categories of participants—16 and below, and 17 and above.

Adventure story

Participants are required to create an adventure story that showcases the strength of the human spirit over evil forces, with the hero eventually saving the world. Entries are judged on originality of hero and creation, storyline, and paneling/layout of work.

The winner of each category will win US$ 1,000, while two US$250 consolation prizes will be awarded for each category. The top 10 entries from both categories will each receive a Certificate of Excellence, and the latest fashion merchandise from Carrot Banana & Peach Clothing. Co.

The top entries will be featured on-air on AXN, online at axn-asia.com, and will also be exhibited during on-the-ground events in Singapore, Hong Kong and Manila.

Three experts in the field of animation will judge the contest—Ban Yinh Jheow, an illustrator, sculptor and designer, and founder of Dreamation, Singapore's first animation studio; Roi Hew, a lecturer at Singapore's National Academy of Fine Arts (Nafa) and a specialist in 3D animation and visual effects; and ex-TOEI staffer Rafael Bonifacio Jr., who is now animation director for TouchToons Animation Studio in Singapore.

Budding artists

"The Anime Action Strip Contest" was designed to encourage Asia's budding artists to use their creative skills, and thrive in the participative environment that AXN's Anime Festival offers," said AXN's vice president of Advertising Sales & Marketing, Ricky Ow.

"Last year, AXN's first ever Anime Hero Drawing Contest, part of the AXN Anime Festival 2000, attracted more than 5,000 entries from the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the region. This year, we've made the drawing contest more challenging by adding a whole new dimension—that of an action strip—to it," he added.

Interested parties can find out full details about the AXN Anime Action Strip Contest online at AXN's award-winning website www.axn-asia.com.

Since 1998, the annual AXN Anime Festival has become one of the most eagerly awaited viewer events of the year, comprising exciting on-air and off-air events dedicated to action animation.

Events

This year's festival is associated with the highly anticipated Columbia Tristar full-length animation release "Final Fantasy." The festival features events in Singapore, Philippines and Hong Kong, showcasing exciting and interactive components, including an exclusive exhibition of "The Making of Final Fantasy," exciting board games, a Costume play (Cosplay) competition and fashion show, and an exhibition of the top entries from the Anime Action Strip Contest.

Anime marathons featuring special telecasts of "The Making of Final Fantasy" and some of the most popular Japanese anime, lasting almost 20 hours, on 15 and 29 July, are also set to keep anime *otaku* across Asia glued to their seats.

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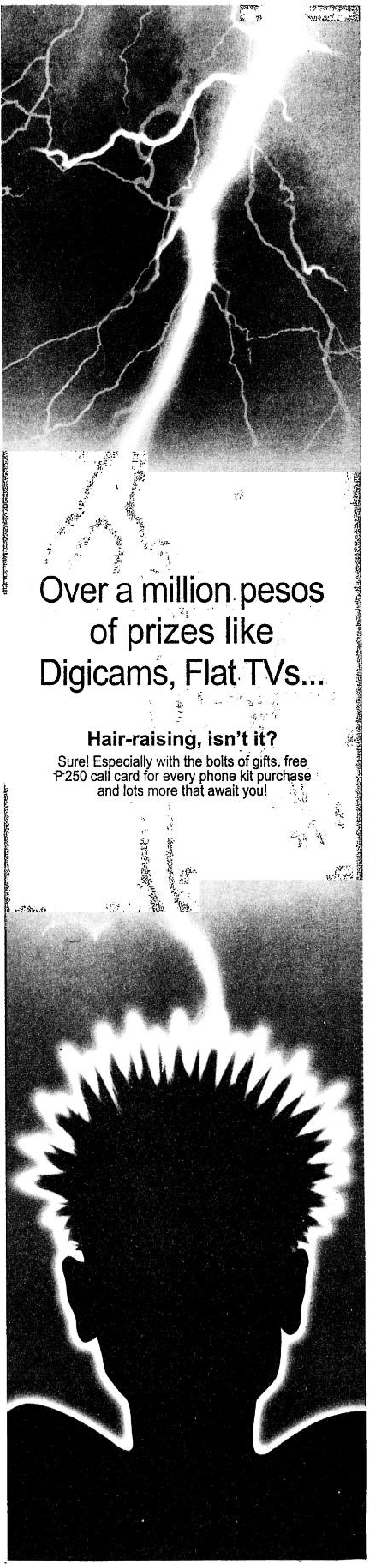
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'3rd Rock from the Sun' ends six-year mission on Earth

By Lynn Elber

LOS ANGELES—News flash: Alien invaders are leaving Earth—and they're taking their payload of off-the-wall humor with them.

"3rd Rock from the Sun," the deliciously dippy comedy about a quartet of aliens who set up house in a small Ohio town to spy on the natives, is ending its six-year run on NBC.

The show is being watched in some 30 countries in Europe, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

Series finale

On the hourlong series finale, commander Dick Solomon (John Lithgow) is ordered to conclude the mission and bring his team back home, ready or not.

They're not. The alien disguised as sexy Sally (Kristen Johnston) is fretting over boyfriend Don's (Wayne Knight) decision to wimp out of his police career. Teen-ager Tommy (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) is salivating over the prospect of adulthood and getting dates older than 12.

Dim-bulb Harry (French Stewart) is too broke to pay for a decent blast-off party. And Dick faces a delicate question: whether to reveal his identity to his squeeze, college professor Mary Albright (Jane Curtin).

But the Big Giant Head has made his decision, and so has the Big Giant Network, NBC, which bounced the series around to a dozen-plus time slots before finally drop-kicking it into space.

Whether "3rd Rock" was ready to depart—and the people who make it differ on that—it does so in familiar style.

Broad slapstick

There's broad slapstick, silly jokes and occasional satire as performed by an out-of-this-planet cast. One scene in which Curtin hams it up after Dick confesses he's out of this world is priceless.

"Mary, think about our entire six-year relationship, knowing I'm an alien," Dick tells her, setting off a rapid chain-reaction of Curtin expressions ranging from horrified to lascivious.

"I can't believe my boyfriend's an alien!" she finally squeals with glee. "Take me, space man!"

There's a sweet poignancy as well as the visitors reflect on what they'll miss about Earth. "The way the sky looks from my bedroom window," says Tommy. "Sneezing," contributes Sally. "Mel Gibson," says Harry—"ahhhh," the groups sighs in unison.

"Everything," concludes Dick.

Lithgow, winner of three Emmys for his boundlessly egotistical mission commander, feels the same about "3rd Rock."

Postpartum blues

"I went through a severe, two-week postpartum blues" when the final episode wrapped in January, Lithgow said in an interview. "The series meant so much to me. It was a very complete and wonderful experience. It never was not fun. It always felt feverishly creative."

Lithgow's all-time favorite scene was one in which Dick, dressed in drag, tries to crash a women's consciousness-raising group and ends up flinging off his pantyhose and wig in a masculine snit.

Another episode made the most of Dick's outsider status for some pointed social commentary.

He complained to Mary's secretary, Nina (Simbi Khali) that she could never understand being the victim of prejudice. Are you forgetting I'm black, the incredulous woman replies.

"Oh, that's right. Nina is black," Dick says, scratching out a reminder note to himself. Humans, of course, all look alike to him.

Unhappiness

Lithgow's only unhappiness, and he's been vocal about it, was NBC's treatment of the series. Although it rescued "3rd Rock" from oblivion at ABC, which declined to air it, NBC didn't show confidence in what it had.

Like the bouncing planets in its credit sequence, "3rd Rock" careered wildly through the network schedule, moving from Tuesday to Sunday to Wednesday just in its first couple of years.

"It's amazing we lasted as long as we did," Lithgow said. NBC might have been more enthusiastic if it had an ownership stake in the show, he suggested, as it does with the well-treated "Will and Grace." *AP*

Timothy Hutton . . .

(From page C12)

HUTTON. Low profile.

'em. It's sort of a cross between Damon Runyon and Noel Coward."

The actor laughs appreciatively. "He was right."

In the series, Archie remains in the employ of Wolfe, a mountainous figure with a volcanic temper who occupies a West 35th Street brownstone he refuses to leave. There, this fabulous recluse puzzles through each crime in his head, while Archie—who's as good with fact-finding as he is with his mitts—works the outside world of circa-1950s Manhattan.

Hutton has expanded his own role beyond that of playing Archie to also serving as an executive producer, occasional director and a guiding force to keep the series light on its feet.

The tone of last year's film, based on the Wolfe mystery "The Golden Spider," was too sinister, Hutton says over meatloaf and mashed potatoes at a Broadway eatery.

Shades of brown

"Everything seemed to be dressed in shades of brown. Everything was dusty and grimy, with that detective-genre, what's-around-the-corner kind of music.

"I was interested in doing the series if I could play a part in how it looked, and be completely responsible for every piece of music, and be responsible for the casting."

Swell, they said, and filming began in Toronto last August.

The series' look is bright and plushly appointed. The music swings like a night at the Stork Club.

The cast? Along with supporting regulars Bill Smitrovich, Colin Fox, Conrad Dunn and Saul Rubinek, Hutton has gathered a repertory company including Deborah Monk, Ron Rifkin, Marian Seldes and George Plimpton, who reappear from tale to tale in different roles.

This week signals the concluding half of "Champagne for One," a case that, in typical "Wolfe" fashion, takes more twists and turns than a New York cabbie—at about the same clip.

Listen: Archie has been asked to fill in for an acquaintance, Dinky Byne, at a party for unwed mothers hosted by Dinky's hoity-toity aunt, Mrs. Robilotti. But one of the mothers at the party was poisoned by a glass of champagne. The unstable Faith carried cyanide around, so everyone assumes she is a suicide. Except Archie.

Fine. But each "Nero Wolfe" case takes a back seat to the "parade of oddball characters and the rhythm of the dialogue," as Hutton puts it.

No sentimentality

"We tell stories about when bad things happen, but we strip all the sentimentality out of it, with people moving through it like they're late to catch a train. That's kinda our style."

He brings out a cigarette, one of the day's allowable three. He will be off smokes by the weekend, he vows. His incentive to quit: a baby due in August.

"We found out yesterday it's a boy," says Hutton, "we" being he and wife Aurore Giscard d'Estaing, a French children's book author he married last year. He also has a 14-year-old son with actress Debra Winger, his former wife.

At 40, Hutton is a still-boyish-looking veteran of movies and theater who remains best-known for his debut performance in the 1980 drama "Ordinary People," which scored him an Oscar. He has stayed busy since, but in recent years has had a lower profile.

"Maybe along the way I should have thought more commercially," he concedes. "But to sit back and say, 'The script didn't make any sense to me, I didn't find it funny or smart, but it's probably going to be very successful and I should consider it'—I can't do that. *AP*

'A Knight's Tale' is full of guilty pleasures

By Anthony Breznican

LOS ANGELES—You've gotta love a movie set during the Middle Ages that still works in a product placement for Nike.

Sure, "A Knight's Tale" is set in the 14th century, but it takes its sensibilities from the 1980s, thanks mostly to a soundtrack filled with arena-rock songs like Bachman-Turner Overdrive's "Takin' Care of Business."

Squire

Heartthrob actor Heath Ledger plays William, a peasant squire to an aging knight. William dreams of competing in jousting tournaments, and when his boss drops dead from one too many lance-blows to the head, the squire dons the ill-fitting honor and competes in his place.

The problem is that peasants are forbidden to participate in the competitions, so William must lie and make up evidence of aristocratic heritage. Most of the suspense and comedy comes from his desperate efforts to hide his real identity while his dimwitted squire friends keep forgetting to treat him like a knight.

LEDGER. A peasant pretending to be a knight.

The plot recalls another great tradition of the 1980s: the charismatic, scam-orchestrating youth undone by his own tricks. Think "Ferris Bueller Goes Medieval."

Whether you enjoy it depends on what you expect. Purists may roll their eyes to the ceiling minutes into the movie when tournament spectators begin dancing to Queen's sports anthem "We Will Rock You."

Blacksmith

Then there's the scene where a blacksmith (Laura Fraser) inscribes the young knight's new armor with her professional mark—which happens to look exactly like a Nike swoosh.

But this is an ideal summer movie: lighthearted, action-packed and full of guilty pleasures.

The jousting scenes are staged with zeal and, unlike the grim fighting epic "Gladiator," the performances constantly aim for the funnybone.

Mark Addy of "The Full Monty" and Alan Tudyk are amiable as Ledger's fellow squires and confidants, now reduced to slaving for him. They're all furious bluster and slapstick, a sort of Three Stooges for the Dark Ages.

But it's Paul Bettany who steals the show as an unemployed writer who teams with the erroneous knight-errant to help perpetuate the fraud with forged documents and exaggerated tales of heroism. The writer's name? Geoffrey Chaucer, of course.

Here, the revered author of "The Canterbury Tales" is a kind of literary version of wrestling announcer Michael Buffer (known for his booming "Let's get ready to rumble!"). Introducing his knight to the audience before jousting matches, he tells bogus stories of William's battles during the Crusades and identifies him with titles such as "the defender of Italian virginity."

Recipe

The film follows a recipe familiar to almost any Disney cartoon: Take one goodhearted hero, give him some odd-looking comical sidekicks and have him face off against a blackhearted villain (Rufus Sewell) for the love of a fair maiden.

In this case, Shannyn Sossamon is the maiden, a noblewoman who dresses like Jackie-O at a rave, in sexed-up retro suits, or like one of the Go-Go's, in ragged punk.

Writer-director-producer Brian Helgeland (an Oscar winner for his "L.A. Confidential" screenplay) sometimes derails his medieval story with the "Super Sounds of the '80s," but it's an interesting experiment.

Most of the time, it works—except when the characters sing along.

The Columbia Pictures release runs 132 minutes. *AP*

Metropop songfest airs tonight on GMA

MONTAGE

RENOWNED composer Ryan Cayabyab and Queen of Soul Jaya host the "2001 Metropop Song Festival" to be aired tonight at 9 on GMA.

This year's finalists: La Verne Ducut and Catherine Carlos, "Kawikaan"; Ma. Rachelle Tesoro, "Gravity"; Vincent Wongaiham, "Sayonara Smile"; Dada de Pano-Supnet, "Unbelievable"; Ruth Bagalay and Bonnie Melocoton, "A Day and a Night More"; Dennis Garcia, "Heaven-Sent"; Mon Espia, "Something I Wrote"; Louie Ocampo and Joey Ayala, "Paguwi"; Reuben Lopez, Jr., "I Am Light"; Noel Mahinay, "Ayoko Sa Pakipot"; Arnel Sevilla and Alexander Castro, "I See You in Me"; Ma. Racquel Custodio, "Destiny."

Zsa Zsa at Captain's Bar

Zsa Zsa Padilla celebrates her birthday, which falls on May 28 with an intimate concert, "In My Life...Zsa Zsa" at Captain's Bar," Mandarin Oriental Manila on June 1 and 2.

The singer is turning 37 this year.

"In My Life" features Louie Ocampo as musical director and Johnny Manahan as director. Zsa Zsa is busy on her next album, which features all-original-songs, a combination of pop and love songs.

Regine's free concert

Regine Velasquez will perform in a free show, "Pangako...Ikaw Lang Listening Party" at Onstage in Greenbelt on June 4. She will sing tracks from her new album, "Pangako...Ikaw Lang." The album contains 12 tracks including "Pangako," the carrier single. The music video of "Pangako," directed by Joyce Bernal, will be launched tomorrow on "SOP."

Bartending contest

T.G.I.Friday's stages "Ultimate Quest 2001—T.G.I.Friday's Philippines Bartender Championship" at its Hotel Rembrandt branch, Tomas Morato, Quezon City on May 28 at 3 p.m.

Five bartenders will vie for the title "King of the Friday's Bar." This year's finalists are: Rommel Alberto (Glorietta); Ian Sauco (Ortigas); Mai Arcega (Malate); Jun Dalusag (Quezon City); and Ferrie Abutin (Alabang).

They will compete in the following categories: Basic and Advanced Flair, Pour Test, Control of Drinks, Sensitivity and Till Procedures, Current Events Quiz, Drink Recipe Test and Guest Interaction.

The winner, who will receive P 20,000 cash, will represent the country in Friday's Asian Bartending Championship in Pusan, Korea.

Jimmy Bondoc at the Ateneo

Recording artist Jimmy Bondoc returns to the concert scene in a solo show, "Jimmy Bondoc...Kung Makikinig Ka Lamang" to be staged on May 31 at Dulaang Sibol, Ateneo de Manila University. The show combines poetry and music with Jimmy co-directing the show with Dave Fabros of the ABS-CBN Talent Center.

Jimmy will be singing all-original materials, most of which will come from his self-titled debut album under Star Records. Joining Jimmy are two exponents of alternative music, Gary Granada and Noel Cabangon.

Call 413-9159.

Movie premiere

Mossimo will sponsor the premiere of Mark Waters' "Head over Heels" on June 1 at Glorietta 4 Cinema 6 at 8 p.m.

The movie, which stars Monica Potter and Freddie Prinze, is about the romance between a girl and the hunk next door and how she is able to win him with the help of her supermodel flat-mates.

For every purchase of Mossimo products worth P 2,000, buyers get two tickets free. Prizes will also be given away during the premiere night.

Album launch

Pido with Take One formally launches its recording career with a special showcase at UFO Planet Rock at Makati Cinema Square on May 29. The occasion marks the official release of the group's self-titled debut album under the MCA Universal label.

A series of mall appearances has been scheduled: June 8 at SM Fairview, June 9 at SM Bacoor, June 10 at SM Sucat, June 15 at SM Megamall, June 16 at SM Pampanga, June 22 at SM Southmall, June 23 at SM Manila, June 29 at SM North Edsa, June 30 at SM City Iloilo and July 7 at SM City Cebu.

REGINE. Greenbelt show.

'Raiders of the Civilization'

Join an international team of archaeologists as they race against the clock to explore the remains of a mysterious pre-Columbian civilization in Peru called the Moche in "Raiders of the Civilization" on the National Geographic Channel on June 6 at 10 p.m. (*Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam*).

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM MAY 26 - JUNE 1

CH	2	4	5	7	9
[illegible]	5.30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7.00 Arriba, Arriba 8.30 Da Body en Da Guard 9.30 Pinoy Exposed 10.00 Keep on Dancing 11.00 "F" 11.30 Sports Unlimited 12.00 The Weekend News	6.00 Cartoon Hour 7.00 On-Line Bingo 8.00 SOF 9.00 Lotto Draw 9.15 Road to Sydney 10.15 Fashion Watch 10.45 Olympic Primer 11.15 National Network News 12.00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6.00 Vampires 6.30 Sailormoon Super S 7.00 Tropang Trumpo 8.00 Ispup 9.00 Saturday Night Specials *2001 Brit Awards* 11.00 Diagnosis Murder	5.30 Brigada Siete 7.00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8.00 Kakabakaba 9.00 GMA's BEST *2001 Metropop Song Festival* 11.00 Master Showman Presents 12.30 GMA Network News 1.00 The 700 Club	6.00 SaBayan 7.00 • Invisible Man 8.00 Martial Law 9.00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11.00 Business Class 11.30 Late Night Movie
[illegible]	5.30 Knowledge Power 6.00 Sharon 7.00 Wansapanataym 8.30 Eto na ang Susunod na Kabanata 9.30 ABS-CBN Presents 11.00 The Weekend News 11.30 Off the Record	6.00 Uncut 6.30 Ugat 7.00 On-Line Bingo 8.00 Primetime Specials 10.00 National Network News 10.30 Business & Leisure 11.00 Sultada 12.00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6.00 Sinbad the Sailor 6.30 Guyferd 7.00 Sing-Galing 8.00 Wow Mali! 9.00 Eezy Dancing 10.00 Sunday Night Movies *Relentless: Mind of a Killer* 12.00 Sentinel	5.30 Partners Mel and Jay 7.00 Bitoy's World 7.30 GMA Telesine 9.30 Sunday Night Box Office *Eraser* 11.30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents 12.00 GMA Network News 12.30 Little Night of Music	5.30 Hollywood Squares 6.00 Compañero y Compañera 7.00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8.00 Just Kidding 8.30 Kids Say the Darnest Thing 9.00 Sunday's Big Event *Mortal Kombat* 11.00 Sunday Report
[illegible]	6.00 TV Patrol 7.00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7.30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8.00 Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis 9.30 Judy Ann Drama Special 11.00 Headlines 11.30 Correspondents 12.30 Martin Late@Nite 1.00 Global News	5.30 Pambansang Balita 6.00 Cartoon Hour 7.00 On-Line Bingo 8.00 Pilipino Box-Office 9.00 Lotto Draw 10.15 National Network News 11.00 Job Network/Fora Medica 12.00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6.00 F 6.30 Mahha Go Go Go 7.00 Que Horror 8.00 The Big Night *American Anthem* 10.00 The Big News 10.30 Arlyn dela Cruz on Special Assignment 11.00 High Tide	6.00 Saksi 6.30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7.00 Lupin III 7.30 Pinoy Blockbusters 9.30 Kiss Muna 10.30 Front Page 11.00 I-Witness 12.00 The 700 Club	5.30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6.00 Quinceañera 6.30 May Bukas Pa 7.00 Siempre Te Amare 7.30 Maria del Cielo 8.00 Amazing Videos 9.00 The X-Files 10.00 Primetime Balita 10.30 Honasan Reports
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[illegible]	5.30 H2K 7.00 Viva Premiere Night 9.00 Kagat sa Dilim 10.00 Gags Must Be Crazy 11.00 Night Lines	6.00 Born Free 7.00 Lassie 7.30 Seventh Heaven 8.30 Gilmore Girls 9.30 Studio 23 Presents *Waterworld* 12.00 MYX	3.00 Q Show Case 7.00 Xclusive Cinema Special! 9.00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9.30 Armor of God 10.00 Oh Tokyo 11.00 Pinoy Wrestling	6.00 CBS Evening News 6.30 E! Coming Attractions 7.00 Celebrity Profile *Christie Brawley* 8.00 E! True Hollywood Story 9.00 E! Special 10.00 David Letterman 11.00 Uncut *Meg Ryan* 11.30 Extreme Close Up 12.00 E! Coming Attractions
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[illegible]	7.00 Blow By Blow 8.00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9.00 Viva Proudly Presents 10.30 Super Bouts 11.00 Ronda Trese 11.30 Amerika Atbp.	6.00 MYX 7.00 I Dream of Jeannie 7.30 Making the Band 8.00 Dawson's Creek 9.00 Charmed 10.00 News Central 10.30 Points of View 11.30 Nightman 12.00 MYX	4.30 Quartermaster 6.30 Q Showcase 7.30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8.00 Q Showcase 9.00 Ang Dating Daan 10.00 Q Showcase	6.00 CBS Evening News 6.30 E! News Daily 7.00 In Focus 8.00 Mysteries & Scandals 8.30 Search Party 9.00 Fashion Emergency 9.30 E! News Daily 10.00 60 Minutes 11.00 Wild on *The Amazon* 12.00 Talk Soup
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[illegible]	5.30 NBA Game of the Week 8.00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9.00 Thursday Nights at the Movies 11.00 Ronda Trese 11.30 PBA Moments	6.00 MYX 7.00 The Green Hornet 7.30 Cineplex 23 *Happy Gilmore* 9.30 Guide to Urban Living 10.00 News Central 10.30 Oprah 11.30 Travel Time 12.00 MYX	4.30 Quartermaster 6.30 Q Showcase 7.30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8.00 Q Showcase 9.00 Ang Dating Daan 10.00 Q Showcase	6.00 CBS Evening News 6.30 E! News Daily 7.00 Celebrity Profile 8.00 E! True Hollywood Story 9.00 Celebrity Homes 9.30 E! News Daily 10.00 David Letterman 11.00 Uncut 11.30 Extreme Close Up 12.00 Talk Soup
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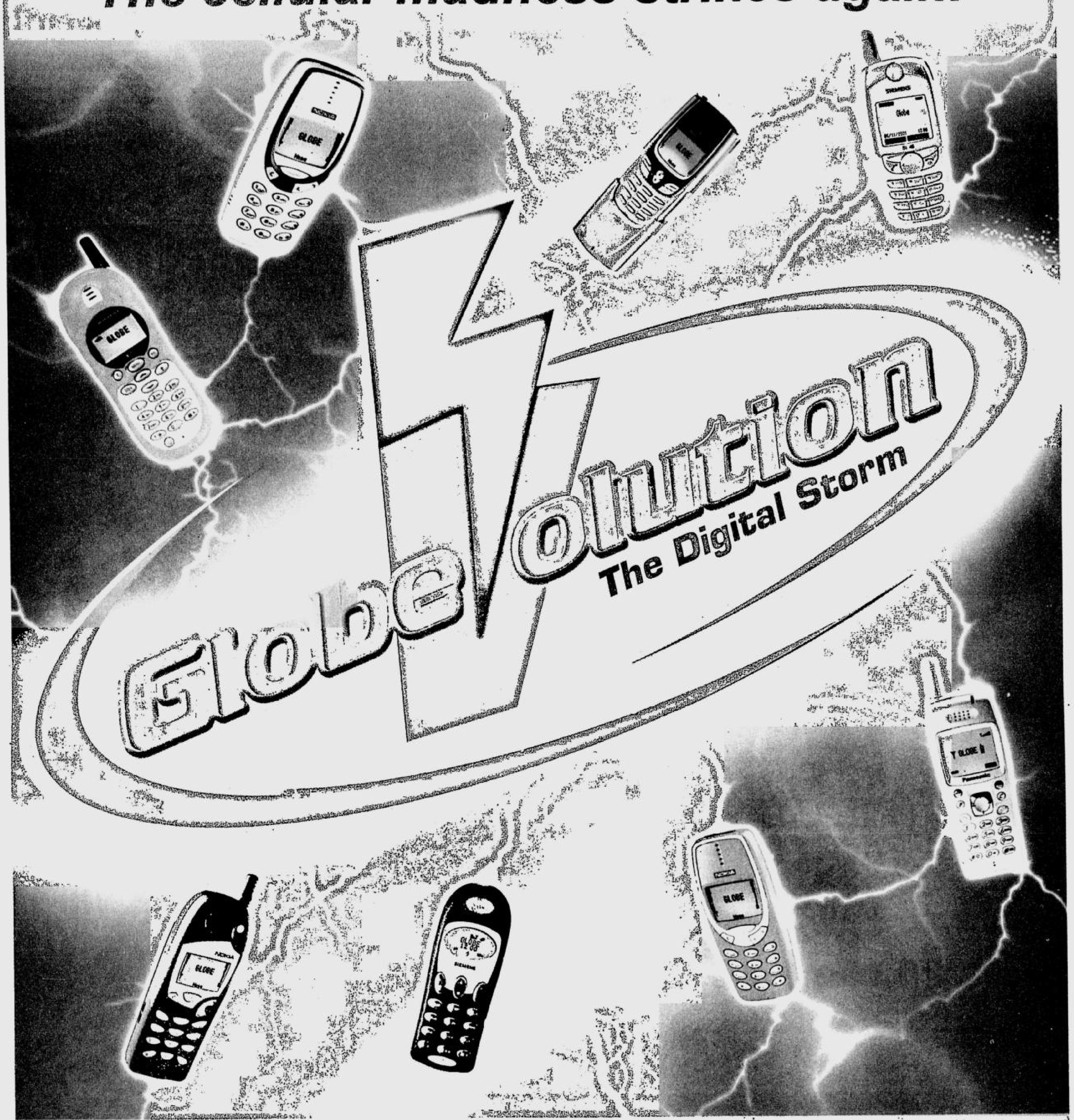

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-0230 Series of 2001.

Timothy Hutton plays a stylish sleuth

By Frazier Moore

NEW YORK—"You are headstrong," mutters Nero Wolfe, "and I am magisterial. Our tolerance of one another is a recurring miracle."

Miraculous indeed is the bond between this magisterial super-sleuth and Archie Goodwin, his dapper, street-wise legman.

Clash

Together, in a clash of decorum and brass, they solve murders like nobody else.

Following last season's successful "Nero Wolfe" TV film, the US A&E cable TV network has launched a series reuniting Maury Chaykin in the title role with Timothy Hutton as Archie. Fast-paced and stylish, there's no mystery why it's so much fun to watch.

Of course, Nero Wolfe first saw life as the hero of some 70 mysteries published by novelist Rex Stout between 1934 and 1985, a decade after Stout's death at the age of 89.

Hutton discovered the books when a friend gave him a tip: "You oughta read one of these, you'll get a kick out of

TIMOTHY/p.C12

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Saturday SPECIAL

KIDMAN and director Baz Luhrmann at the premiere of "Moulin Rouge" at Sydney's Fox Studios.

Kidman speaks frankly about divorce

By Sarah Tippit

LOS ANGELES—Divorce is "a nightmare," a nervous Nicole Kidman told Oprah Winfrey on Friday last week in some of her frankest comments yet about her split from Hollywood superstar Tom Cruise who filed for divorce in Los Angeles last February.

New film

In an appearance on the popular syndicated afternoon talk show to promote her new film, "Moulin Rouge," a calm and smiling Kidman's composure rapidly deteriorated when Oprah asked about the demise of her 10-year-long marriage to Cruise.

"I think that divorce is hard for anyone. It's a nightmare, it just is, and you can pretend you're fine. And days you're great (and) days you're not great," Kidman said, fidgeting in her chair.

Kidman was pregnant earlier this year and begged Cruise not to end their marriage, but he stormed out anyway and she ultimately miscarried the baby they had recently conceived, according to court papers.

In a written response to a Los Angeles Superior Court petition filed by Cruise on the grounds of irreconcilable differences, Kidman said she was caught by surprise when the "Mission Impossible" star told her that he no longer wanted to be married.

The two had celebrated their 10th anniversary on Dec. 24 with a group of friends and by all accounts seemed happy. Afterwards, the couple conceived a baby, according to court papers. However, Cruise's filing said the couple formally split in December—just before their 10th anniversary.

Little girl

When asked by Oprah whether she thought she would always be married, Kidman copped the demeanor of a little girl and quietly replied: "Yeah."

She seemed increasingly hesitant to discuss the split, at times grabbing Oprah's hands, at times shrinking in her chair, at times sighing and even saying "Oprah!" in sort of shocked tones.

At one point it looked like she would try to explain her feelings: "It was a real marriage. There was enormous love," she said, before collapsing in a bundle of nerves: "Oh man save me . . . somebody . . . I don't know I'm still like . . . Ayeeeee!" she said, throwing her hands in the air.

When asked whether she hoped to get back together with Cruise, she replied "Shush!"

"I've had a blessed life," she said, regaining composure, and yet "I've always thought something bad is going to happen something bad is going to happen. But then something really bad happened. A number of really bad things happened. You go, 'I'm dealing with it. I'm stronger than I thought.' Ultimately that's where wisdom comes from doesn't it," she said.

Kidman refused to elaborate on the "bad things," saying: "I'm in a position where if I start to answer any of this stuff . . . we have two children 8 and 6 (and) they are the most important things to us and as a mother my job now is to protect them . . . from any . . . scrutiny they are going to get and in terms of what they're going to read."

Awful

"All I will say is it's been awful—one of those things where you just say I cannot believe this is happening to me, but I will move forward day by day," she said.

Kidman added that she was surprised by the enormous amount of love and support she received from friends and family, adding that she was also surprised when some people she thought were her friends turned away. "Surprisingly some people I thought would be there have not been," she said. "It's hurtful. And people I would never have thought have been a life force. . ."

Cruise and Kidman, once Hollywood's hottest power couple who starred together in 1999's Stanley Kubrick erotic thriller "Eyes Wide Shut," have two children together, both adopted. *Reuters*

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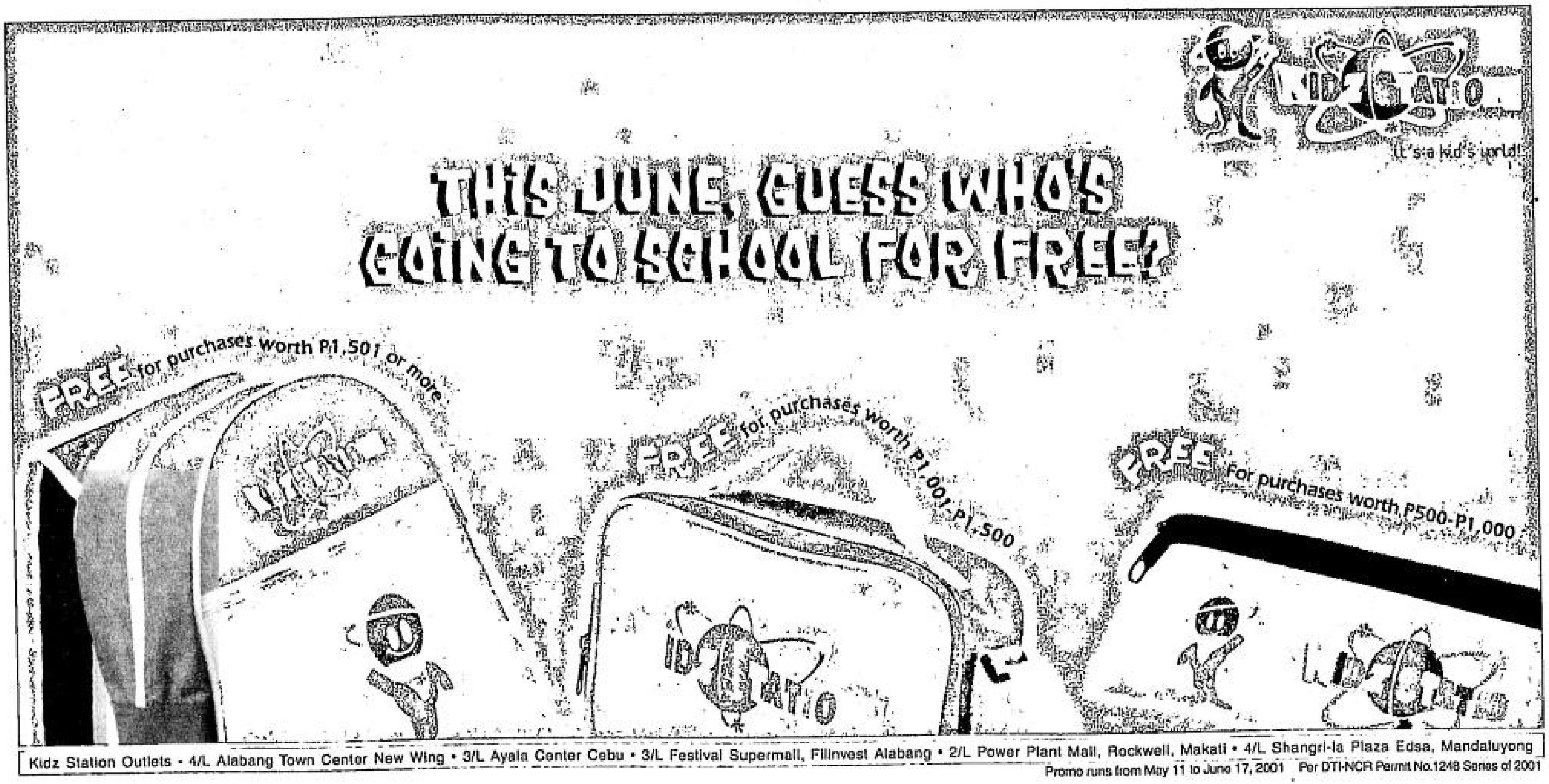

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0568 Series of 2001

Reminiscing about Paul McCartney's other group

BY DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK—Paul McCartney recalls slipping a compact disc into his car's CD player and getting lost in reminiscences about that group he was a part of all those years ago.

No, not THAT group. The other one.

Remember Wings? You're forgiven if you've forgotten; some of those years are even a little fuzzy to McCartney.

Retrospective

A double-CD retrospective of McCartney's post-Beatles work is out along with a two-hour movie that aired on ABC May 11. It's sure to reignite interest in—and maybe some re-evaluation of—this overlooked stretch of his career.

"It was good to revisit it," McCartney said on a recent trip to New York. "In some ways it's more interesting because I kind of know the Beatles stuff better than the Wings stuff."

Wings memories were literally stuffed into a box and placed on a back shelf. That's where Paul and his wife, Linda, found a collection of snapshots and home movies from the 1970s while housecleaning a few years before her death from breast cancer in 1998.

Without Paul's knowledge, Linda had their son-in-law, filmmaker Alistair Donald, stitch the material into a small movie for an anniversary present. McCartney liked it so much he decided to expand it to a public project, bringing his songs back to the marketplace after many years.

"The '60s was sort of four guys let loose on the world and conquering it," McCartney said. "This was more to do with a marriage, family and trying to follow the Beatles, which was a virtually impossible task."

Depressed

That prospect left McCartney depressed and somewhat lost for a while. He contemplated inviting some famous friends to form a supergroup, but instead brought Linda into a low-key combo that began by piling into a van and playing unannounced gigs at English colleges.

They weren't easy years. McCartney was battling the other Beatles in court, was blamed by many for breaking up the band and was laughed at for having his wife in his new group.

To much snickering, a bootleg tape from a Wings concert isolating Linda's painfully off-key background vocals was widely circulated.

"Nobody likes to see the wife ridiculed," McCartney said. "Are you married? You can imagine the feeling. You want to take a pop at them. We sort of realized that we would have to do it, that we would have to persevere. And that became the drama of the Wings story."

McCartney acknowledged he long had an inferiority complex about his work from that era that he only recently put behind him, when trying to distill the best for the new CD.

His music was vilified at the time for being sickly sweet and occasionally sloppy; he answered critics at the time by writing "Silly Love Songs." But it took a toll on his reputation.

MCCARTNEY. Memories of Wings.

McCartney was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a solo artist five years after John Lennon. When he got the honor in 1999, daughter Stella wore a profane t-shirt saying it was "about time."

Complex

"The critics weren't helping," he said. "They were intent on giving me that complex. When you think about it, no one was saying, 'Don't worry, Paul, you're starting over. It's to be expected.'

"There was not that kind of sympathetic attitude. And, in truth, in those first couple of years, where the Beatles had peaked and had done all their best work, we were doing our least good work."

Some of that music has aged well. "Maybe I'm Amazed," from his first solo album, is one of McCartney's best-ever love songs, and "Junk" has low-key charm. The album, "Band on the Run" was a creative peak. Even lesser songs like "Another Day" and "With a Little Luck" have McCartney's classic melodic sense.

Singles like "Uncle Albert/Admiral Halsey" and "Junior's Farm" haven't improved much with time. Fortunately, "Wingspan" pretty much weeds out the weak. The package is divided into "hits" and "history" discs, the latter composed of some personal favorites.

Competitive

Ask McCartney whether the former Beatles felt competitive with one another during their solo years, and you get a revealing answer.

Not really, he says at first.

Well, a little bit.

All right. Sure we were.

One of Lennon's recording engineers told McCartney he brought a copy of the single, "Coming Up," into the studio one day and played it. Lennon responded with an expletive and said, "Now I've got to get to work, Paul's done something good."

"There was a little bit of that feeling, just like it was in the Beatles, that if I had written something good, then John would feel he had to match it," he said. "That kind of tradition sort of continued."

Sadly, that ended with Lennon's assassination.

Interview

In words that echo George Harrison's from an interview a few months back, the 58-year-old McCartney said the most satisfying thing about the successful Beatles "1" album was its appeal to young people.

He had a steady stream of parents approaching him to say, "my 6-year-old loves you."

"People say, 'the kids don't care when it was made, they just love it,'" he said. "So I was very pleased to hear that. Then what sort of came after that wave was the people saying that their kids wanted to know what happened next.

"I said, 'that's cool, because we're putting together this 'Wingspan' thing.' For me, that was what happened next." *AP*

FRANCIS AND SOFIA COPPOLA

Like father, like daughter

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

FRANCIS Ford Coppola has made a name for himself in the demanding field of film directing with masterworks like "The Godfather" and "Apocalypse Now."

Important role

In the last film in the "Godfather" series, however, he disappointed viewers by casting his young daughter Sofia in an important role.

Sofia was truly lovely, but she was a weak, tentative and unfocused actress, so her screen debut was a failure. Worse, it was described in a review as "the film's one almost-fatal flaw." Coppola had to contend with charges of artistic nepotism, and pleaded guilty. For her part, Sofia never appeared in films again.

Film buffs thought that was the last they would hear of the beautiful but seemingly talentless young woman. But Sofia unveiled a surprise for everyone last year: she resurfaced on the film scene—no longer as an actress, but as a director.

Her "comeback" knocked everyone's socks off, not just because it was so unexpected, but because her first directorial effort, "The Virgin Suicides," turned out to be a very interesting film.

Thus did Sofia effectively silence the jeers that greeted advance reports that she wanted to follow in her famous father's footsteps as director. Her movie was no imitation of his filmmaking style, but told its story in her unique voice.

Some critics faulted Sofia's maiden film effort for its "hazy observations" about neurotic young people, but ended up praising the production as a whole for its sensitivity and force.

Compelling story

It told the troubling and yet compelling story of five young sisters who appeared to be fascinated with death. When the youngest sister killed herself, her other siblings were kept in the house, away from all "evil" influences—and yet they too ended up flirting with suicide.

As the movie's strange tale unwound, it became clear that there was much more to the movie than just extreme teenage neurosis. As one of the girls tearfully admitted, she felt she couldn't cope with the combined pressures of sex, love and life.

Coppola adapted the screenplay for her movie from an acclaimed novel written by Jeffrey Eugenides. The film was praised for its "evocative" cinematography (by Edward Lachman), its "ethereal" score (by the pop band, Air), and Sofia Coppola's successful use of "suburban magical realism" to tell her unusual story.

Eulogy

Reviews further lauded the production for its "seductive look and feel" and for "its haunting eulogy—not just for the doomed and unknowable girls, but also for the boys in their neighborhood, robbed of their childhood by so much death."

"The Virgin Suicides" starred Kirsten Dunst, Giovanni Ribisi, James Woods, Kathleen Turner and Josh Hartnett. Other capsule quotes:

"Remarkable! Sofia Coppola displays impressive self-assurance in crafting a subtly absurdist tone and muted, irridescently beautiful images."—*Premiere Magazine*

Affecting

"Powerfully seductive! Sofia Coppola gives "The Virgin Suicides" a haunted quality that is undeniably affecting."—*Rolling Stone*

"One of the most anticipated films of the season. It takes the tongue-in-cheek tone of 'American Beauty.' A film to live for—and love."—*Flair Magazine*

"Luscious! Kirsten Dunst explodes in all her newly-minted stone-cold fox glory!"—*Vanity Fair*

Rave reviews to die for! Papa Francis must be very proud of his Sofia, whose unexpected talent in directing has thrown everybody for a loop. Like father, like daughter, indeed!

COPPOLA. Artistic nepotism.

Movies on TV this week

ON the HBO Channel, Saturday, May 26, 6 a.m., "All American Girl: The Mary Kay Letourneau Story." 7:30 a.m., "Dark Tides." 9 a.m., "Born In East L.A." 10:30 a.m., "The Perfect Tenant." 12:15 p.m., "Single White Female." 2 p.m., "Woo." 3:30 p.m., "You've Got Mail." 5:30 p.m., "Jewel." 7 p.m., "A League of their Own." 9 p.m., "Earthly Possessions." 10:45 p.m., "Forever Young." 12:25 a.m., "The Corrs: Live At Wembley Arena." 2 a.m., "Hero." 4 a.m., "Bopha!"

'Les Miserables'

Sunday, May 27, 6:30 a.m., "Tick-Tock." 8 a.m., "Second Honeymoon." 9:30 a.m., "White Dog." 11:15 a.m., "Les Miserables (1998)." 1:30 p.m., "The Sentinel." 3 p.m., "Forbidden Sins." 4:30 p.m., "Thick as Thieves." 6 p.m., "Criminal Instinct: The Wandering Soul Murders." 7:30 p.m., "The Big Hit." 9 p.m., "The Unexpected Mrs. Pollifax." 10:30 p.m., "Antz." 11:55 p.m., "A father's Choice." 1:30 a.m., "The Mating Habits of the Earthbound Human." 3 a.m., "Thick as Thieves." 4:30 a.m., "The Big Hit."

Tuesday, May 29, 6 a.m., "Born in East L.A." 7:30 a.m., "Slaughterhouse Rock." 9 a.m., "Santa and Pete." 10:30 a.m., "Woo." 12 p.m., "Forever Young." 1:45 p.m., "Jewel." 3:30 p.m., "The Corrs: Live At Wembley Arena." 5 p.m., "The Perfect Tenant." 6:45 p.m., "Matrix." 9 p.m., "Unforgiven." 11:10 p.m., "Hero." 1:05 a.m., "American Beauty." 3 a.m., "Forever Young." 4:45 a.m., "The Perfect Tenant."

Wednesday, May 30, 6:30 a.m., "The Outsider." 8:30 a.m., "A League of their Own." 10:45 a.m., "Can't Hardly Wait." 12:30 p.m., "Earthly Possessions." 2:15 p.m., "The Burbs." 4 p.m., "Reach The Rock." 5:45 p.m., "Where The Buffalo Roam." 7:30 p.m., "Lost in the Bermuda Triangle." 9 p.m., "Single White Female." 11 p.m., "Dance With Me." 1:05 a.m., "Earthly Possessions." 2:45 a.m., "American Movie." 4:30 a.m., "A League of their Own."

'Thick as Thieves'

Thursday, May 31, 6:30 a.m., "Thick as Thieves." 8 a.m., "The Sentinel." 9:30 a.m., "The Big Hit." 11 a.m., "Forbidden Sins." 12:30 p.m., "Lovers Lane." 2 p.m., "Second Honeymoon." 3:30 p.m., "A Father's Choice." 5:15 p.m., "Les Miserables (1998)" 7:30 p.m., "Tick-Tock." 9 p.m., "Galaxy Quest." 11 p.m., "Criminal Instinct: The Wandering Soul Murders." 12:30 a.m., "White Dog." 2 a.m., "The Big Hit." 3:30 a.m., "The Mating Habits of the Earthbound Human." 5 a.m., "Lovers Lane."

On the Cinemax Channel, Saturday, May 26, 6:30 a.m., "Barton Fink." 8:30 a.m., "Plunkett and Macleane." 10:15 a.m., "Cat People." 12:15 p.m., "Meet Prince Charming." 2 p.m., "The Curse of the Mummy's Tomb." 3:15 p.m., "Celebrity Profile: Gene Hackman." 4 p.m., "Frank Herbert's Dune Part 1." 5:45 p.m., "A Soldiers Sweetheart." 7:30 p.m., "Beyond Justice." 9 p.m., "Meet Joe Black." 11:55 p.m., Plunkett and Macleane." 1:35 a.m., "White Tiger." 3:15 a.m., "Cypress Edge." 4:45 a.m., "Beyond Justice."

'The Big Chill'

Sunday, May 27, 6:30 a.m., "The Big Chill." 8:15 a.m., "Splitting Heirs." 9:45 a.m., "Purgatory." 11:15 a.m., "The First 9 ½ Weeks." 12:45 p.m., "The Silencer." 2:15 p.m., "Curly Sue." 4 p.m., "Frank Herbert's Dune Part 2." 5:45 p.m., "Frank Herbert's Dune Part 3." 7:30 p.m., "Bloodfist III Forced to Fight." 9 p.m., "Dick." 10:30 p.m., "Cruel Intentions." 12:05 a.m., "Purgatory." 1:40 a.m., "Nightmares." 3:15 a.m., "The First 9 ½ Weeks." 4:45 a.m., "The Ballad of Josie."

MEG Ryan and Tom Hanks in "You've Got Mail" airing today at 3:30 p.m. on HBO.

Monday, May 28, 6:30 a.m., "Cat People." 8:30 a.m., ' Looking for Alibrandi." 10:30 a.m., "A Twist of Faith." 12:15 p.m., "The Skull." 1:45 p.m., "Third Degree Burn." 3:30 p.m., "Dream House." 5:15 p.m., "Barton Fink." 7:15 p.m., "Suicide Kings." 9 p.m., "Jane and the Lost City." 10:30 p.m., "Cat People." 12:15 a.m., "A Twist of Faith." 2 a.m., "Sweet Liberty." 4 a.m., "Suicide Kings."

Tuesday, May 29, 6 a.m., "Hoods." 7:45 a.m., "Celebrity Profiles: Gene Hackman." 8:45 a.m., "The Final Cut." 10:30 a.m., "Maid to Order." 12:15 "EDtv" 2:15 p.m., "Map of the Human Heart." 4:15 p.m., "An Unexpected Life." 5:45 p.m., " My American Vacation." 7:15 p.m., "Quick." 9 p.m., "The Philadelphia Experiment." 10:45 p.m., "EDtv." 12:45 a.m., "Return to Paradise." 2:45 a.m., "Map of the Human Heart." 4:45 a.m., "Quick."

Wednesday, May 30, 6:30 a.m., "The Fifth Cor-

MOVIES/p.D3

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Per DTI-NCR Permit # A-3-263 Series of 2001

Ang Lee presents the best of Asian cinema to the world

By Nestor U. Torre

ANG LEE. Simplicity and directness.

JACKY Chan is the most successful Asian working in Hollywood these days, but filmmaker Ang Lee gets more respect.

Record

We all know, of course, that his latest film, "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," figured strongly in the last Oscar awards and is now the biggest-earning foreign movie ever released in the States (smashing the record set only a few years ago by Roberto Benigni's "Life Is Beautiful").

But that's only one-sixth of Ang Lee's exceptional success story. Movieline's Stephen Farber hails the Taiwanese filmmaker as "one of the most enterprising auteurs of the new millennium."

He points out, "In the last eight years alone, Lee has made six films that run an astonishing gamut."

Gay theme

He started with "The Wedding Banquet," a small independent feature with a gay theme. The director's achievement here was his ability to get his movie about gay lovers accepted by heterosexual viewers. He did this by underscoring the movie's comedic element and downplaying its graphically gay component.

Next came Ang Lee's film adaptation of Jane Austen's "Sense and Sensibility," which caused quite a stir when it was released, because it was regarded as a big gamble for a studio to assign such a sophisticated period film about English bluebloods to an Asian filmmaker.

International outlook

People who looked askance at the production's "unthinkable" choice of director didn't know that Ang Lee had been schooled in the West, and had in fact acquired quite an international outlook that made him capable of directing a wide range of movies, in radically contrasting styles.

He was vindicated when the film was released to general acclaim, effectively debunking the narrow-minded notion that only an Englishman could direct a period film about well-born English gentlemen and ladies.

Dissection

Lee's follow-up movie to "Sense and Sensibility" was another unexpected assignment, "The Ice Storm,"' an icily precise dissection of repressed and liberated sexuality.

"Ride with the Devil," a melodrama set in the Civil War, was Lee's least successful effort, but he recovered smashingly with "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon."

In a sense, the period martial-arts drama enabled Lee to return to his roots, as well as to pay tribute to the cultural tradition that had nourished him early in his life and career, before world cinema claimed him.

More than a tribute to his past, the film was Lee's way of helping Asian films get the international exposure they need if they are to go beyond their shrinking local markets and truly come into their own on the world film scene.

Cachet

Lee generously used the cachet he had earned internationally to get the attention of movie people and film buffs all over the world. And yet, the filmmaker scrupulously made sure that his film was done in his native language, Mandarin Chinese, to retain its unique identity and cultural and artistic integrity.

Only a film artist who had become supremely confident about his skill and vision could have pulled off such an unprecedented feat.

To be sure, Chinese martial arts movies do have a market in the west. But Lee didn't stay at the action level, matching the movie's breathtaking martial-arts stunts with captivating characters and performances.

Insightful study

It is also an intricate and insightful study of love as contrastingly experienced by two sets of lovers, one young and fiercely passionate, the other more mature and reflective, but no less loving.

Only a master filmmaker steeped in the cultural and cinematic traditions of east *and* west could have come up with such a triumph of a film. Even better, Lee did it with simplicity and directness, leaving audiences breathless with the truth, beauty and power of his achievement.

So, let Jacky Chan enjoy his multi-million-dollar talent fees. It is Ang Lee who presents the best of Asian cinema to the world.

Movies on TV this week

(From page D2)

ner." 8:15 a.m., "Curly Sue." 10 a.m., "What Ever Happened to Baby Jane? 12:15 p.m., "Primal Force." 1:45 p.m., "10." 3:45 p.m., "The Right Temptation." 5:30 p.m., "The Big Chill." 7:15 p.m., "Plunkett and Macleane." 9 p.m., "Mallrats." 10:30 p.m., "Primal Force." 12 a.m., "Curly Sue." 1:40 a.m., "The Right Temptation." 3:15 a.m., "Kill Line." 4:45 a.m., "Plunkett and Macleane."

Thursday, May 31, 6:30 a.m., "Texas Across the River." 8:15 a.m., "976-Evil II." 9:45 a.m., "D.C. Cab." 11:15 a.m., "Bloodfist III Forced to Fight." 12:45 p.m., "Meet Prince Charming." 2:30 p.m., "Cat People." 4:15 p.m., "Beyond Justice." 6 p.m., "Meet Joe Black." 9 p.m., "Pirates of Silicon Valley." 10:30 p.m., "Bloodfist III Forced to Fight." 11:55 p.m., "Valentine's Day." 1:25 a.m., "Beyond Justice." 3 a.m., "Phantom of the Rue Morgue." 4:30 a.m., "Cat People."

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Oh so good!
JACK 'n JILL
Piattos
CHIZ CURLS
Cheese Flavored Corn Curls
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You can taste the crunch!
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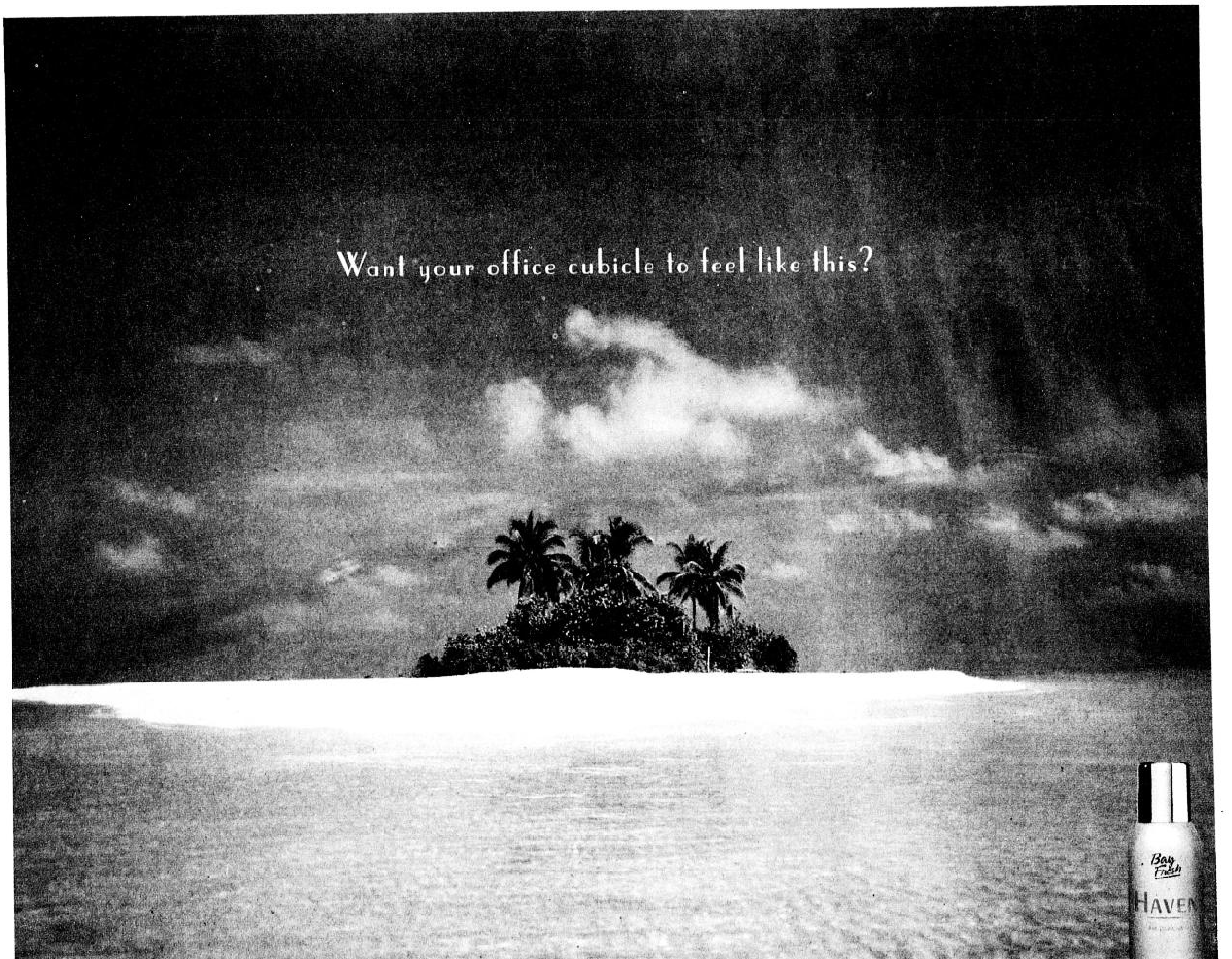
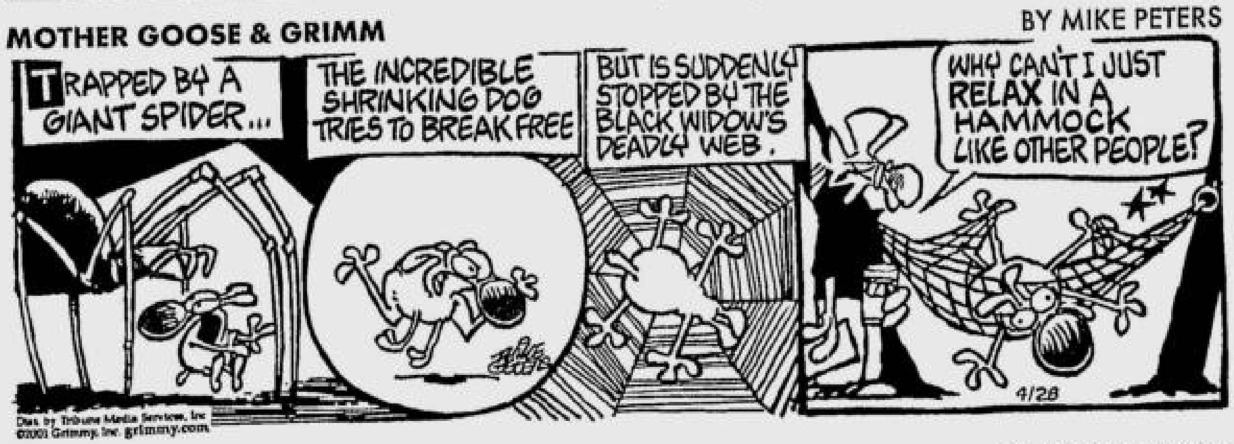

Want your office cubicle to feel like this?
Bay Fresh
HAVEN
Bayer
Create your own personal space anywhere. New Bayfresh Haven Air Perfume.

COMIC Relief

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


TRAPPED BY A GIANT SPIDER...
THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING DOG TRIES TO BREAK FREE
BUT IS SUDDENLY STOPPED BY THE BLACK WIDOW'S DEADLY WEB.
WHY CAN'T I JUST RELAX IN A HAMMOCK LIKE OTHER PEOPLE?
4/28

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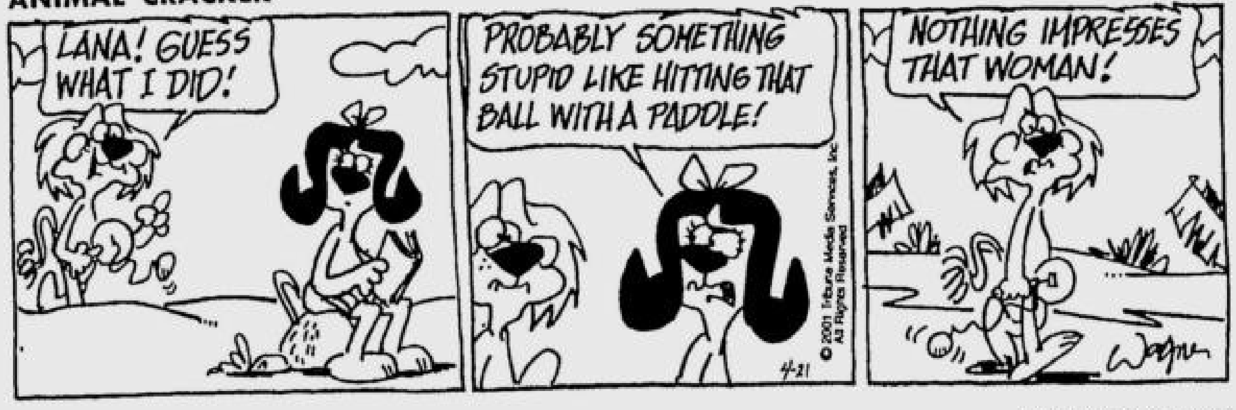
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


LANA! GUESS WHAT I DID!
PROBABLY SOMETHING STUPID LIKE HITTING THAT BALL WITH A PADDLE!
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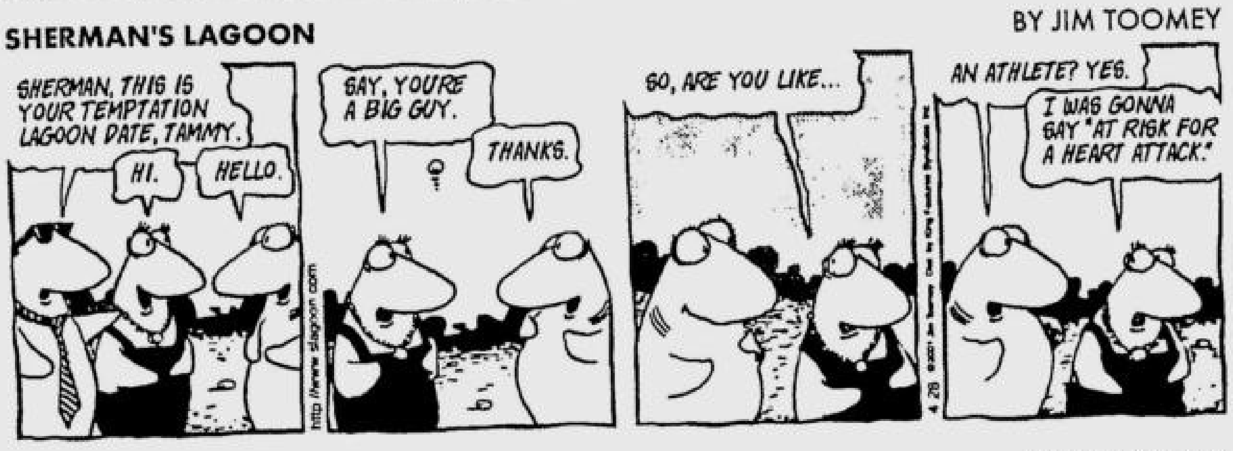
4-21
NOTHING IMPRESSES THAT WOMAN!
Wagner

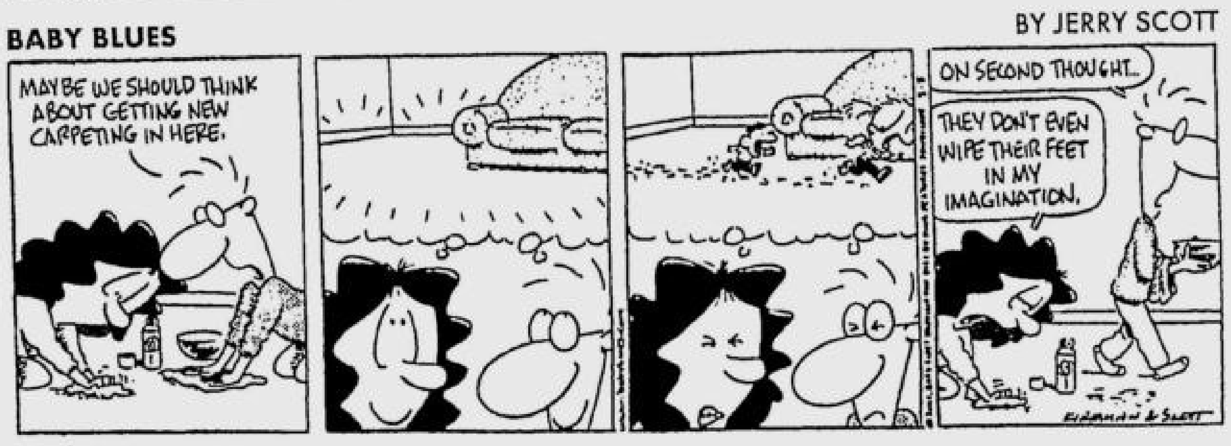
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SHERMAN, THIS IS YOUR TEMPTATION LAGOON DATE, TAMMY.
HI.
HELLO.
SAY, YOU'RE A BIG GUY.
THANKS.
http://www.slagoon.com
SO, ARE YOU LIKE...
AN ATHLETE? YES.
I WAS GONNA SAY "AT RISK FOR A HEART ATTACK."

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MAYBE WE SHOULD THINK ABOUT GETTING NEW CARPETING IN HERE.
ON SECOND THOUGHT...
THEY DON'T EVEN WIPE THEIR FEET IN MY IMAGINATION.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: John Wayne, Stevie Nicks, James Arness, Hank Williams Jr., Lenny Kravitz, Matt Stone, Sally Ride, Helena Bonham Carter

Happy Birthday: You can't do it all, so delegate tasks that you are falling behind on. You need to focus on the fine details of projects that are really important to you. Only by letting go of some of your responsibilities will you be able to reach your goals. Stop trying to be all and do it all. Your numbers: 11, 15, 19, 31, 36, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take care of your social plans early. You wouldn't want to waste such a day sitting home alone. You'll have no problem attracting potential partners. If you're receptive, you won't be sorry.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Hold your tongue. You are likely to explode if you allow someone to lure you into a heated debate. Busy yourself with projects that will enhance your appearance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take the initiative and go after your goals. Small-business ventures can earn you extra cash. You have to believe in yourself. Social events will bring you in contact with potential partners.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Someone you care about may not be completely honest with you. One-sided romantic attractions will cause heartache. It's time for some self-assessment.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Working around your home will be quite rewarding. You need to feel the satisfaction of knowing that your living space reflects your personality. Now you're ready to entertain.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): New romantic encounters will develop through activities that include large groups or organizations. You can be successful if you communicate openly.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Use your finesse to get what you want. Someone at home may be hard to deal with. The changes that you are experiencing may not sit well with everyone concerned.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Outdoor activities will be most invigorating. Take care of your loved ones' needs before you take off for the day. You should consider ways to improve your surroundings and make everyone happier.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Pull out your personal file and start sorting through all your papers. You need to prepare yourself for future financial adventures. The more organized you are, the better you'll do.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take things in stride. It's the wisest course to busy yourself with your own projects and ignore your partner's temper tantrum. He or she is stressed out and needs to vent for a while.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll be in a sensual mood. Talk your mate into a quiet night by the fire and a bottle of good champagne and talk naturally of your love for one another.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get busy; self-improvement should be on your mind. It's time to change your image and move with the times. Try a new look.

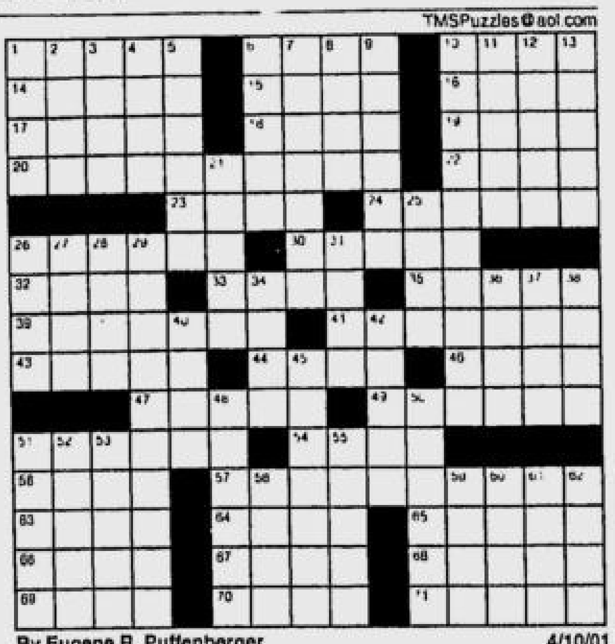
Birthday Baby: You are emotional, sensitive and family oriented. You are always willing to help others and will stand by loved ones no matter what. You have a need to belong and will strive to form alliances.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS
1 "Carmen" composer
6 Guitarist Jeff
10 Open-handed blow
14 "__ Gay"
15 Workplace safety grp.
16 Corridor
17 Conspicuous success
18 Mimic
19 Contribution to the pot
20 Neighborhood of makeshift dwellings
22 Final Four org.
23 Defeat
24 Questioners
26 Gathered together
30 Egyptian crosses
32 Part of TVA
33 Different
35 Stomachs of ruminants
39 Cloyingly sweet
41 Leaping antelopes
43 Barbera's partner in cartoons
44 One-billionth: pref.
46 Disorderly retreat
47 Cary or Hugh
49 Phony
51 Poet Langston
54 Seven days
56 VOA group
57 Beer-lemonade drink
63 Wise Men
64 Small amount
65 Downgrade
66 Chills and fever
67 European barracuda
68 Tropical lizard
69 Require
70 Grow weary
71 __ of the ball

DOWN
1 Hive group
2 Foot part
3 Writer Emile
4 Verve
5 Reveal by gossip
6 Watercraft
7 Monterrey mates
8 Masticate
9 Thebes, today
10 By foot
11 Judge Ito
12 Church table
13 Legal arguments
21 Mountain air?
25 Boutique
26 SAT section
27 Nimbus
28 "Nana" star Anna
29 Kidnapped
31 Nuremberg negative
34 Actress Redgrave
36 Moises or Felipe
37 King Ibn __
38 Concerning
40 Show concern
42 Sulked
45 California city near Merced
48 Help out
50 U.S. space station
51 To err is __
52 Accepted practice
53 Lively dance: var.
55 Related on mother's side
58 Pueblo dweller
59 Departed
60 Mil. truant
61 Plummeted
62 Complimentary



By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX
4/10/01

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

O	M	A	H	A	■	T	A	S	T	E	■	P	B	S
R	O	V	E	S	■	N	I	N	E	S	■	E	L	L
B	E	A	L	E	S	T	R	E	E	T	■	Y	E	A
■	■	■	M	A	E	■	B	E	S	E	A	T	E	D
S	O	T	S	■	C	H	A	R	■	E	R	O	D	E
P	R	O	M	O	T	E	S	■	O	M	E	N	■	■
L	I	B	E	L	■	N	E	O	N	■	■	P	A	L
A	B	A	N	D	O	N	■	R	O	S	A	L	I	E
T	I	C	■	■	H	A	I	L	■	O	S	A	K	A
■	■	C	L	A	M	■	C	O	R	N	I	C	E	S
B	O	O	E	R	■	R	E	N	E	■	T	E	N	T
U	P	R	E	A	R	E	D	■	B	O	W	■	■	■
L	E	O	■	F	I	F	T	H	A	V	E	N	U	E
B	R	A	■	A	D	I	E	U	■	E	R	A	S	E
S	A	C	■	T	E	X	A	N	■	R	E	B	E	L

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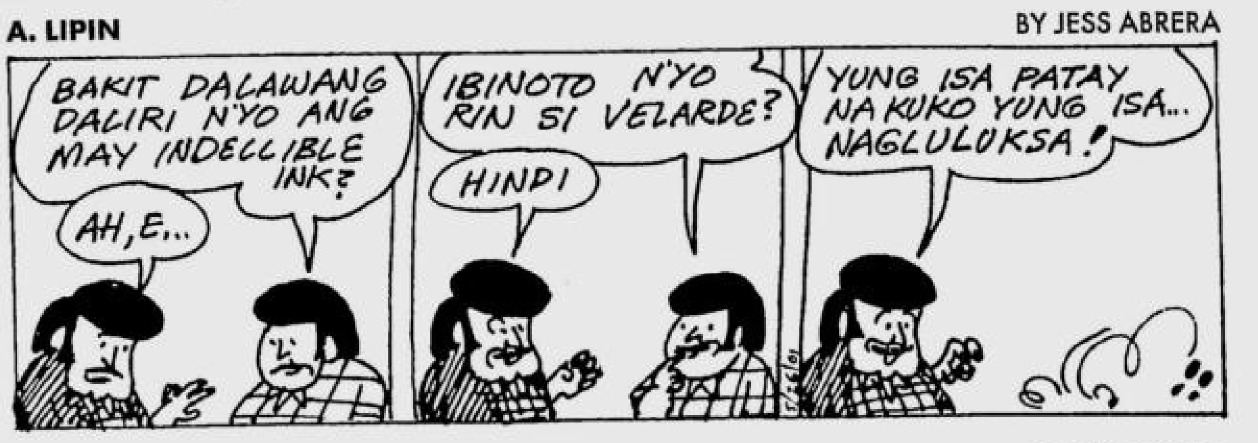
4/10/01

ANSWER ON MONDAY

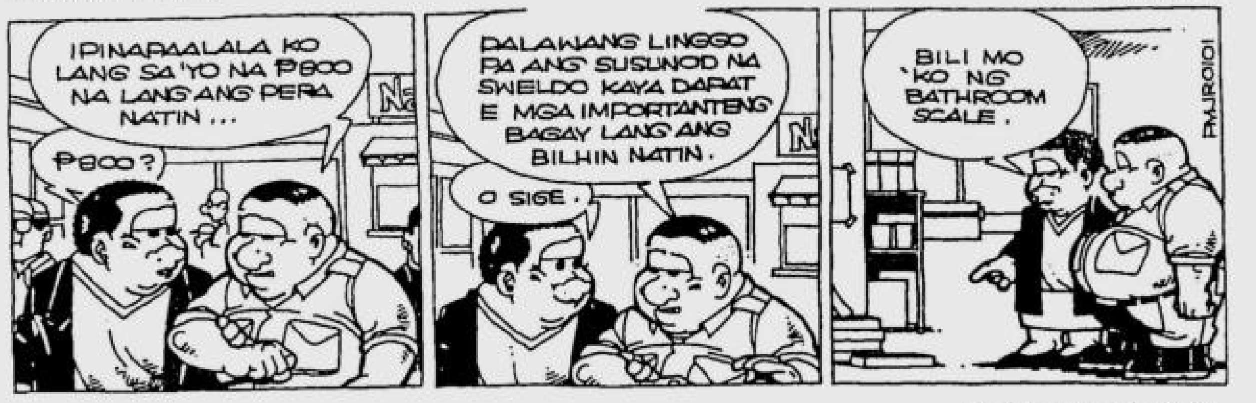
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BAKIT DALAWANG DALIRI N'YO ANG MAY INDELLIBLE INK?
AH, E...
IBINOTO N'YO RIN SI VELARDE?
HINDI
YUNG ISA PATAY NA KUKO YUNG ISA... NAGLULUKSA!

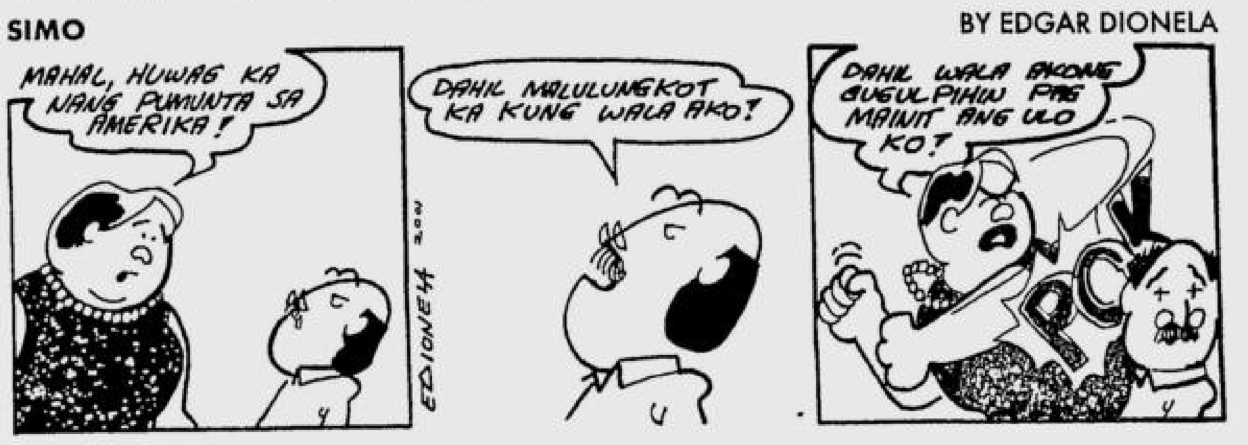
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


IPINAPAALALA KO LANG SA 'YO NA ₱800 NA LANG ANG PERA NATIN ...
₱800?
DALAWANG LINGGO PA ANG SUSUNOD NA SWELDO KAYA DAPAT E MGA IMPORTANTENG BAGAY LANG ANG BILHIN NATIN.
O SIGE.
BILI MO 'KO NG BATHROOM SCALE.
PMJR0101

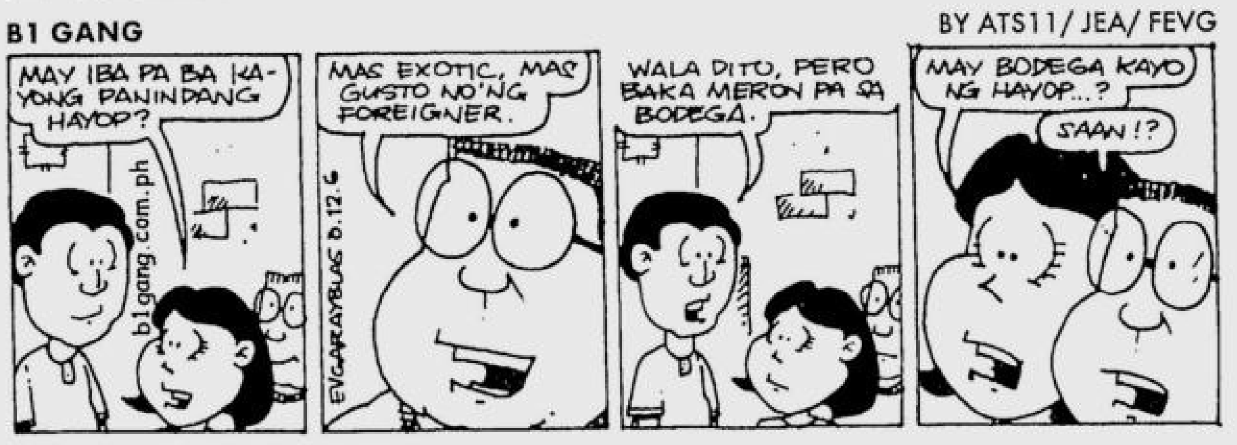
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


MAHAL, HUWAG KA NANG PUMUNTA SA AMERIKA!
DAHIL MALULUNGKOT KA KUNG WALA AKO!
EDIONE44 2001
DAHIL WALA AKONG BUGULPIHIN PAG MAINIT ANG ULO KO?

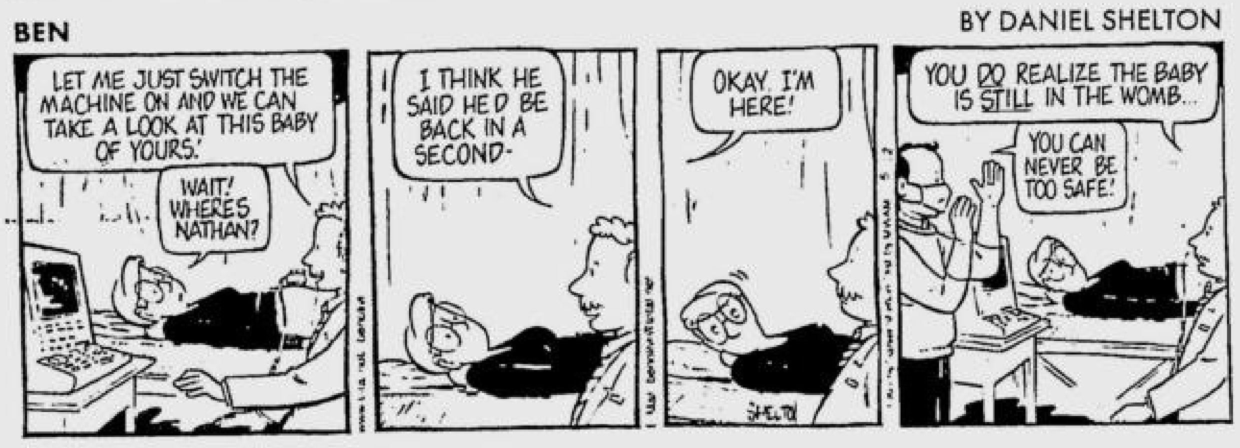
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


MAY IBA PA BA KAYONG PANINDANG HAYOP?
b1gang.com.ph
MAS EXOTIC, MAS GUSTO NO'NG FOREIGNER.
EVGARAYBLAS 6.12.6
WALA DITO, PERO BAKA MERON PA SA BODEGA.
MAY BODEGA KAYO NG HAYOP...?
SAAN!?

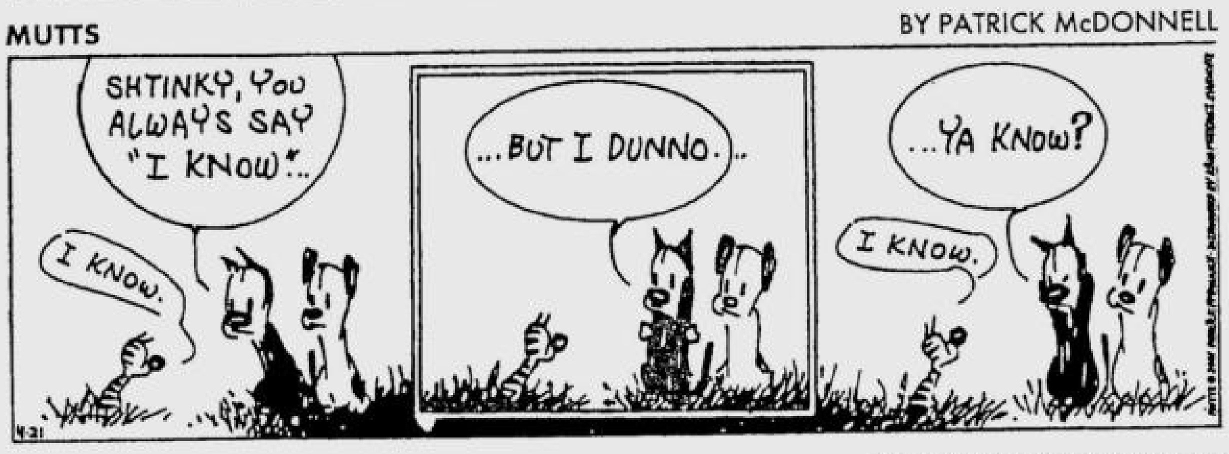
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


LET ME JUST SWITCH THE MACHINE ON AND WE CAN TAKE A LOOK AT THIS BABY OF YOURS.
WAIT! WHERES NATHAN?
I THINK HE SAID HE'D BE BACK IN A SECOND-
OKAY. I'M HERE!
SHELTON
YOU DO REALIZE THE BABY IS STILL IN THE WOMB...
YOU CAN NEVER BE TOO SAFE!

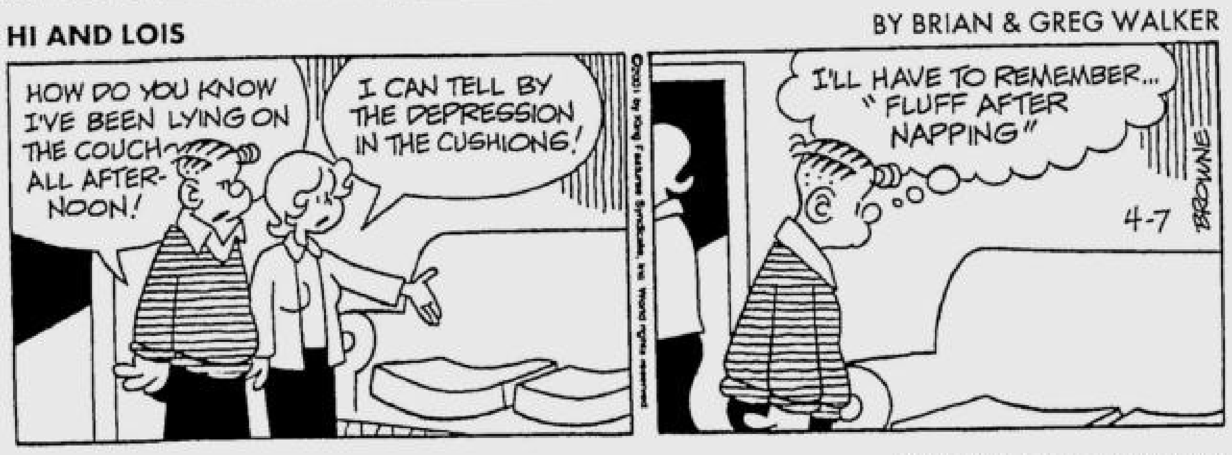
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHTINKY, YOU ALWAYS SAY "I KNOW"...
I KNOW.
...BUT I DUNNO...
...YA KNOW?
I KNOW.
4-21

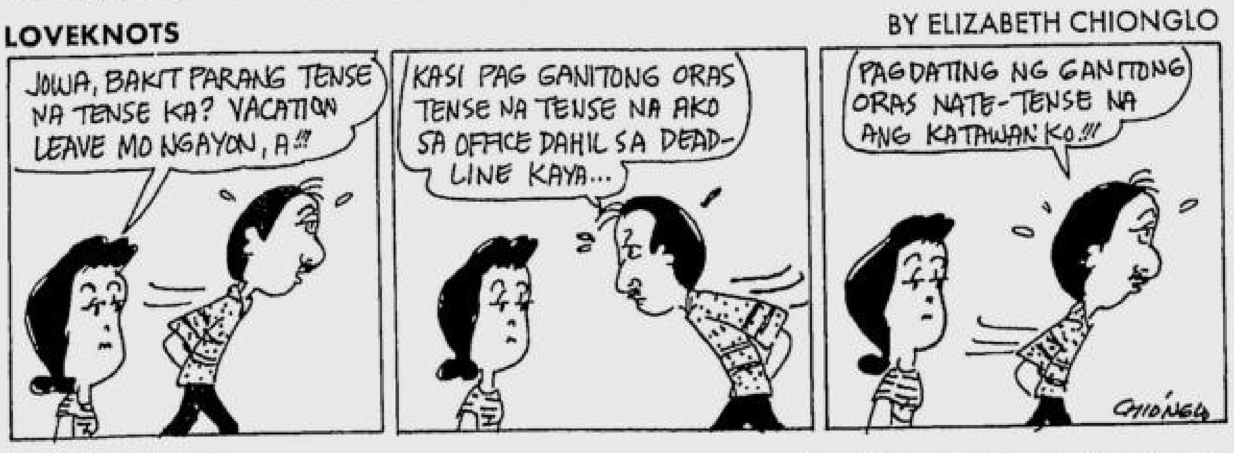
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


HOW DO YOU KNOW I'VE BEEN LYING ON THE COUCH ALL AFTERNOON!
I CAN TELL BY THE DEPRESSION IN THE CUSHIONS!
I'LL HAVE TO REMEMBER... "FLUFF AFTER NAPPING"
4-7
BROWNE

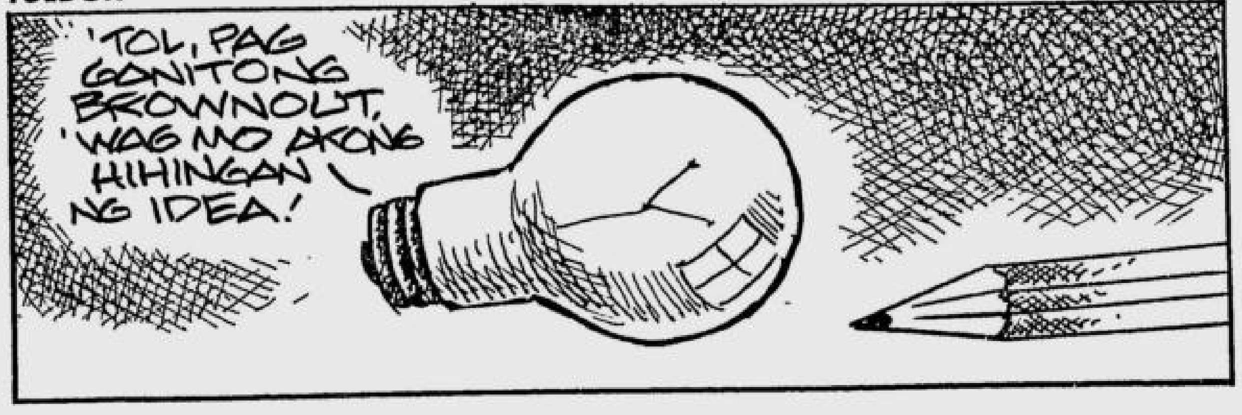
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, BAKIT PARANG TENSE NA TENSE KA? VACATION LEAVE MO NGAYON, A!!!
KASI PAG GANITONG ORAS TENSE NA TENSE NA AKO SA OFFICE DAHIL SA DEADLINE KAYA...
PAGDATING NG GANITONG ORAS NATE-TENSE NA ANG KATAWAN KO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


'TOL, PAG GANITONG BROWNOUT, 'WAG MO AKONG HIHINGAN NG IDEA!

'Lutong bahay' at Café Metro

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

THERE are hundreds of restaurants and *carinderias* all over the country, all of them known for their specialty dishes. Barrio Fiesta is famous for the best crispy *pata*. Conrad Calalang is known for his *kare-kare* with ground *pili* nuts, Larry Cruz for his knockout knuckles, *Aling* Sosing for her *nilagang baka*, etc.

Most dining places want to be identified with a particular kind of cooking. Some advertise, "*Luto ni Lola*," others claim "Fiesta Food" or "*Luto ni Mang Ambo.*" But the most eye-catching is "*lutong bahay.*"

But, what place *really* serves home-cooked food? I've found the only place so far:

Partners

Mikey and Ria have been partners since their high school days. Both are adventurous diners. They eventually said their "I do's" to each other and started a family. Together, they put up a catering business which gave them the confidence to put together what today is called "Café Metro." This place serves real "home-cooked" food.

Among the dishes I truly enjoy is their crispy *pla-pla*. This is fresh fish that's filleted, sliced into bite-size pieces, coated with flour, deep-fried to a crisp, and served with a sweet chili soy-based sauce. It's a winner!

I also love their *Gising-gising*. The original recipe uses slices of finger *sili* with *gata*. Ria's innovation is made with the same procedure but uses Baguio string beans instead. Mildly spicy, it is stabilized with the cream from the coconut milk. An absolute must!

Garlic rice

Another winner is a dish called General's Chicken—deep-fried boneless chicken coated with a sweet-sour sauce. I have it with garlic rice.

Just like at any home, however, there are one or two dishes that will make you wish you had eaten at the neighbors'!

The beauty of the dining experience doesn't stop with the food. The service, neat presentation and cleanliness all the way up to the CRs make one feel right at home.

If you want to experience dining at home, check the place out. Unlike being at home though, I suggest you don't come only in your underwear and slippers, and with your hair standing. You could be the attraction rather than the home-cooked dishes!

Located along Libis, coming from Blue Ridge, it is on your right before Burger King, on the 2nd floor of the building that has the big RCBC sign. *Simpleng masarap talaga.*

Happy Eating!

Delicious

I had a meal at Katre on Scout Rallos along Tomas Morato. It was tenderloin steak over lyonnaise potatoes topped with crispy onion rings and mushroom sauce. It was so delicious! The beef was tender and the combinations perfect. Try *mo*!

For orders or delivery of my cook book, "Happy Eating," log on to Sandydaza.8k.com, or email me at sandydaza.yahoo.com, or call 752-3673, 631-1947, 729-2818 and weekdays 636-2796.

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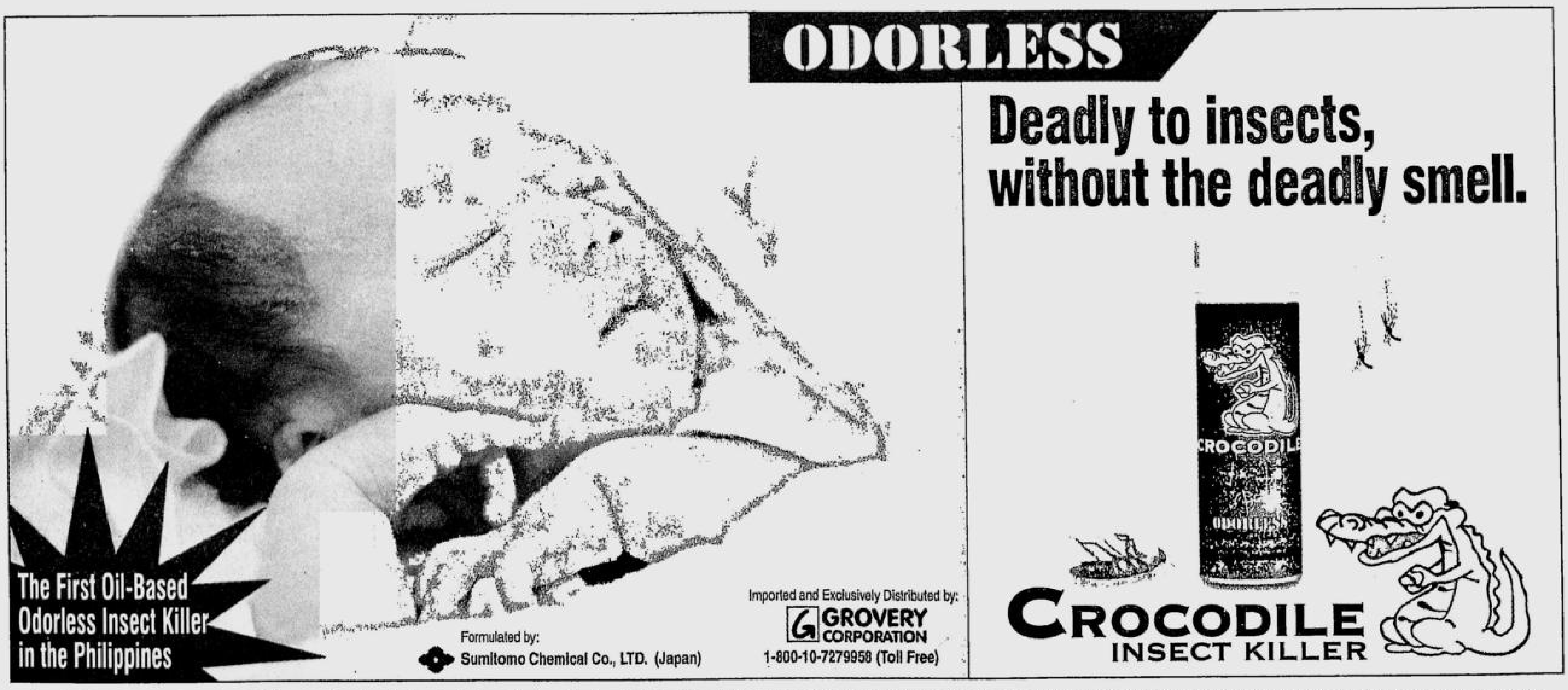
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How to succeed in show biz despite the current slump

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

(Conclusion)

AFTER Norma Japitana started managing him, Cesar Montano's career has been on the upswing.

AFTER you've honed your performing skills, decided on what you do best, and contacted people to help you achieve your show biz dreams, are you all set for stardom?

Good manager

Not on your life. Now you're got to get yourself a good manager.—Rather, you have to convince a good manager that he should handle you.

How do you do that? By being good-looking, charismatic, talented, hardworking, eager to learn or ready to accept painful criticism—better yet, all of the above!

The relationship between a talent and his manager is a marriage, a business venture and an artistic partnership, all rolled up into one. That's why happy and productive performer-manager tandems are difficult to find in local show biz.

Plus points

To improve your chances of landing a good manager, you should realize that different managers handle different kinds of talents. Some specialize in actors, others in singers. Some prefer to manage women, other handle mostly men. Take stock of your particular combination of plus points, ask around, and you'll get a better idea of which managers to interest in handling you.

If you get an experienced manager, you'll benefit a lot from all of his contacts in the biz. Sometimes, he can package newcomers like you along with his bigger talents, so that you get included in the bigger talents' projects, and can thus more quickly beef up your resumé as a performer.

Percentage

Make sure, though, that the manager has a good reputation where money is concerned. And that romantic hanky-panky isn't part of your deal. *And* that you scrupulously pay him the percentage of your earnings you've agreed on as his fee for handling you.

Now, if you can't find a good, experienced manager, you'll just have to get one of your relatives or trusted friends to learn the ropes when it comes to talent management. Things will be tougher this way, but they'd be even more difficult if you decide to handle your career yourself.

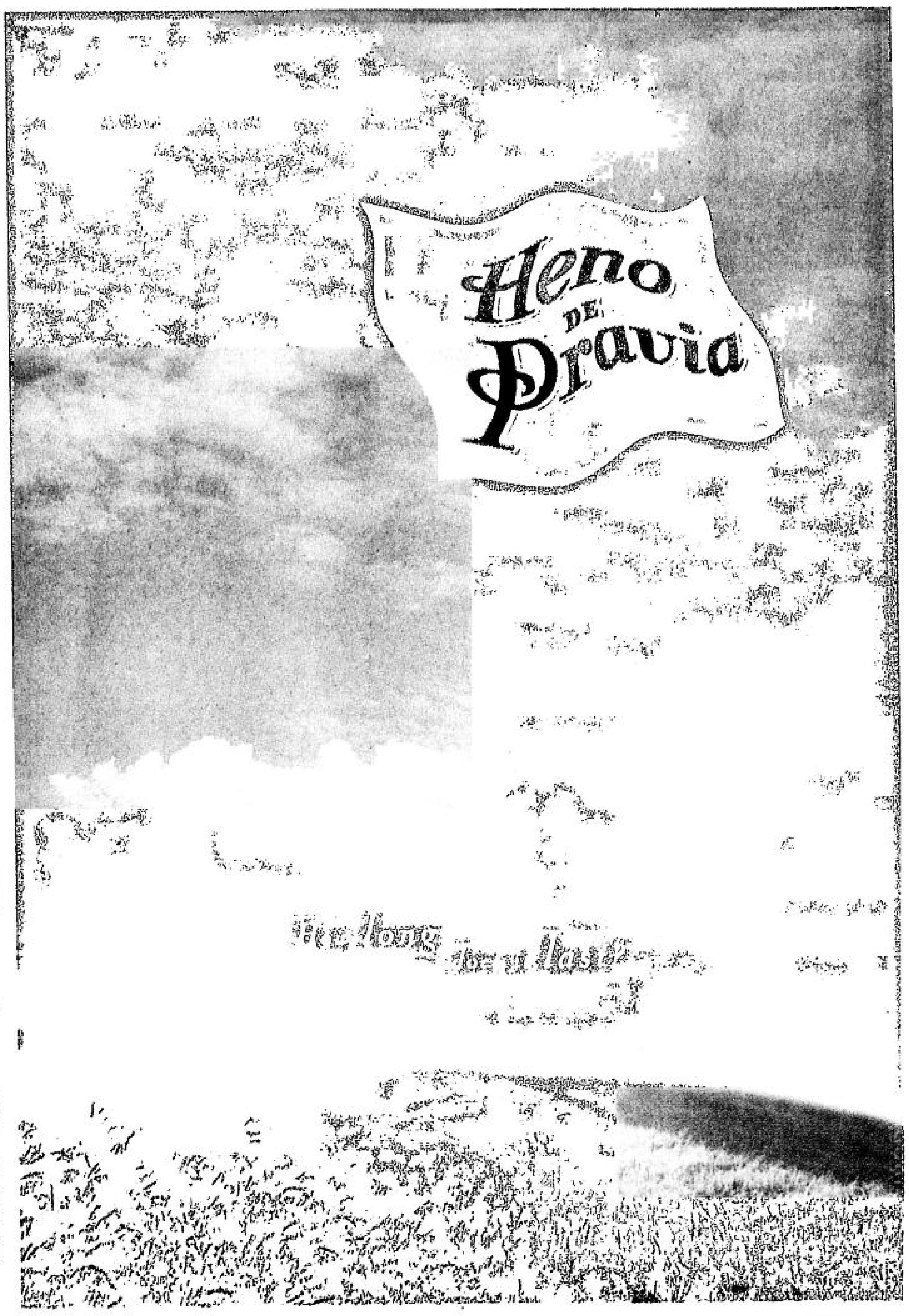
Why? Because managers are supposed to protect their talents from the many unscrupulous wheeler-dealers out there, so that the talents can concentrate on performing, which should be their strongest suit. If you end up managing yourself, you won't be able to focus on performing.

Newcomer

Well, let's say that you've found a manager—*now*, can you relax? Uh, not quite. Being a newcomer, you've still got to prove that you've got what it takes to become an exceptional performer (translation: a star).

So you and your manager will still have to hustle to meet the right people and get the right exposure, which you both hope will finally lead to that much-longed-for Big Break that will showcase you at your best, make millions of people want to organize fan clubs for you, and fatten your bank account!

—*If* you're good. And ready.



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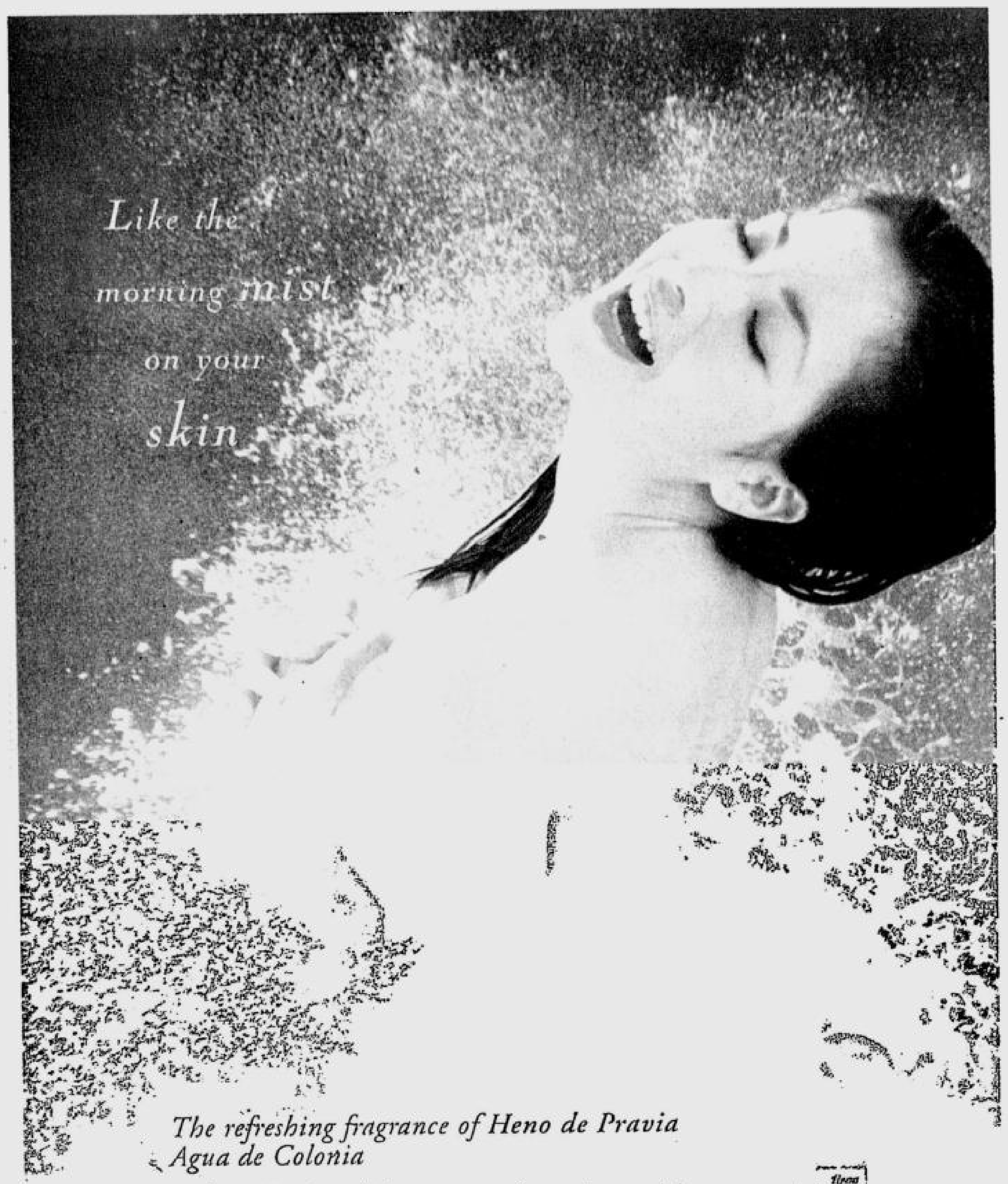

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Into the world of rap with Andrew E and Trilogy

By Remy M. Umerez

A NEW rap group collectively known as Trilogy has been signed up by Bella Tan of Universal Records, where their new album "Kut 5 Trilogy" was released on the new Kamp label that caters to the hip-hop generation.

The three boys are Kristoffer Carlo Carino (Kristyles), J.O.L.O. Raagas and Mark Anglo (Krook) whose individual creativeness shines in the "Kut 5" album.

Turning point

At age 10, Kristyles moved to LA where he developed an immediate liking for rap. A turning point was when his father gifted him with the turntables he longed for. He formed a group with his partner Klever, the MC 2, and started playing for private parties and other small functions.

On his own, he returned to the country of his birth and immersed himself in the local hip-hop community.

J.O.L.O (Juggling Over Lyrical Obstacles), who was born and raised in the Philippines, has diverse musical influences. It was while recording a track in Mo Twister's debut album that he met DJ MOD, who spearheaded "Kut 5 Trilogy."

Krook is Washington-born-but, was raised in Maryland where he spent 18 years. Always fascinated with the way hip hop artists tell their stories in their rap-rhyme, he developed in that mould.

In high school, Krook's rap group became recognized in school parties and other gigs. They even performed in a live concert in Chicago.

Among the three young men, it is Krook who has really lived a hip hop lifestyle. Listening to his numbers in the album ("You Know Me," "Eminem Kut," "I Don't Like to Brag") can attest to this.

College

He came to the Philippines to go to college and is happy to have been given the chance to try his luck in our music industry.

"Kut 5" has 12 cuts made even more interesting with the participation of Geneva Cruz, who is featured in the rap cut, "What Would It Be."

The first single "Eminem Kut" is now played on the airlanes. It is a free-flowing rap number and very danceable.

Meanwhile, Andrew E. returns home to Viva Records and was signed up by Lady Boss Tess R. Cruz with a 10-album contract.

Andrew was an unknown disc jockey when he was discovered in Euphoria by musician/ businessman Ramon Jacinto in 1990. His first phenomenal hit was "Humanap Ka Ng Panget," which easily sold more than a hundred thousand copies on its initial release. It changed the market attitude towards rap recordings and brought about the most successful period for hip-hop music in the country.

Andrew left Viva four years ago to record in Japan. He joined Sony Music on his return and continued to make hits with songs like "Banyo Queen," which Viva intends to adapt into a film for Andrew's next project.

ANDREW E has come home to Viva Records.

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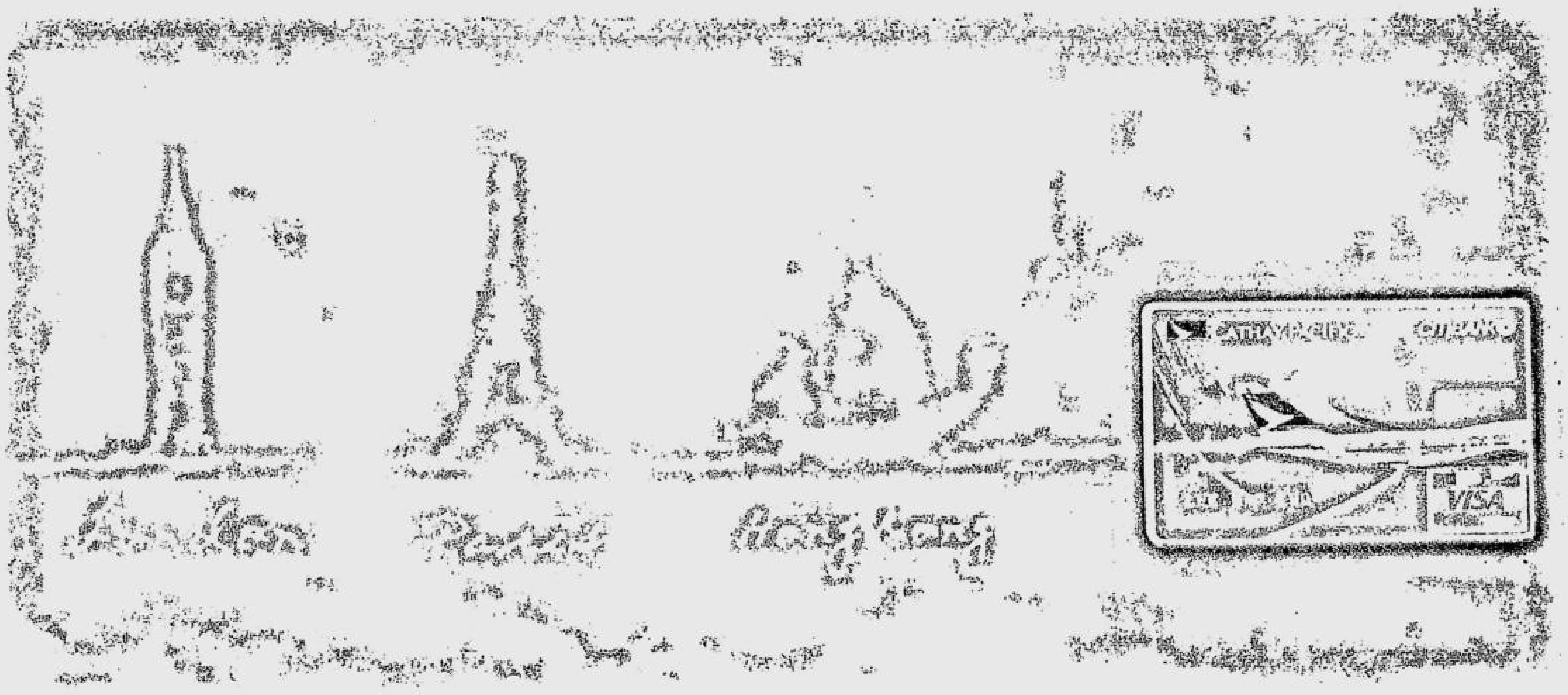

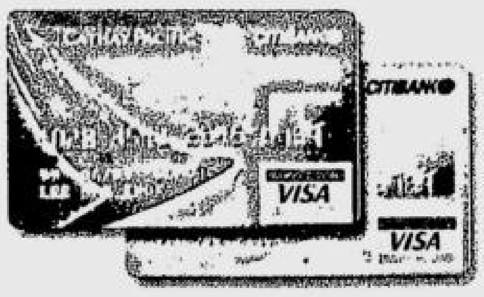

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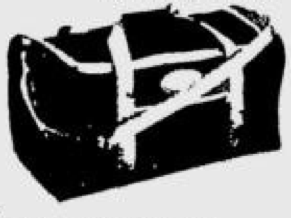

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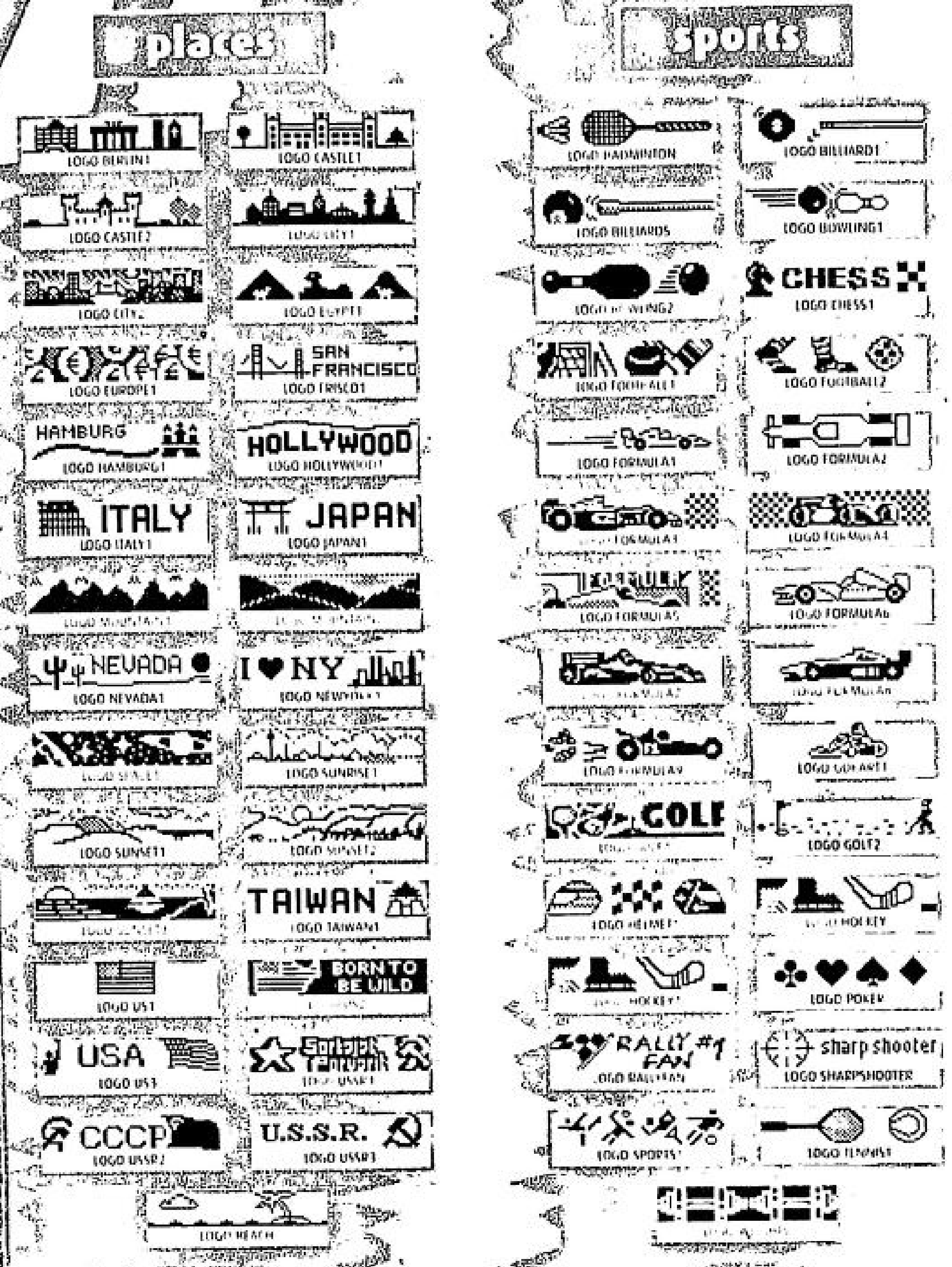
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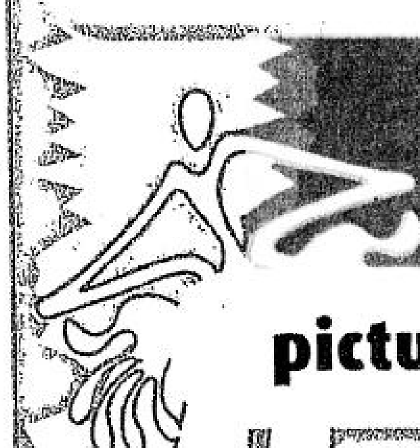

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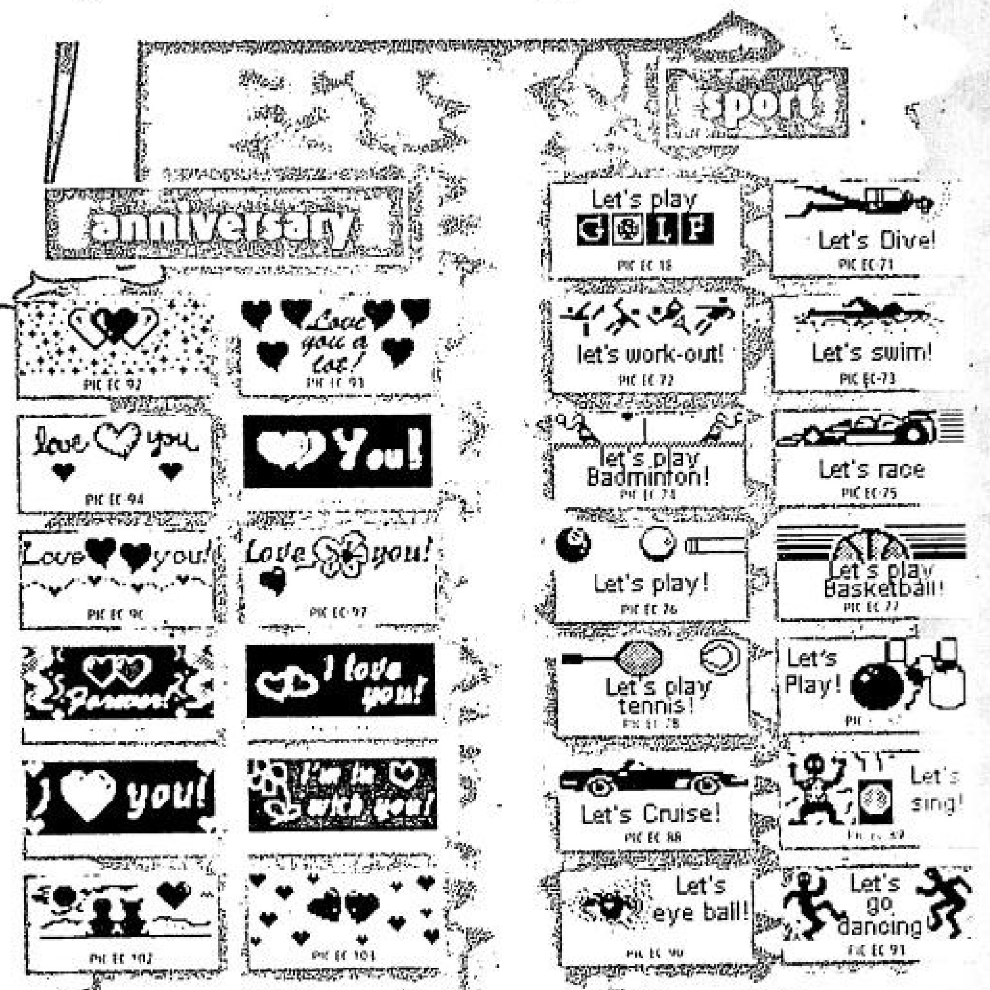
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Let's swim!
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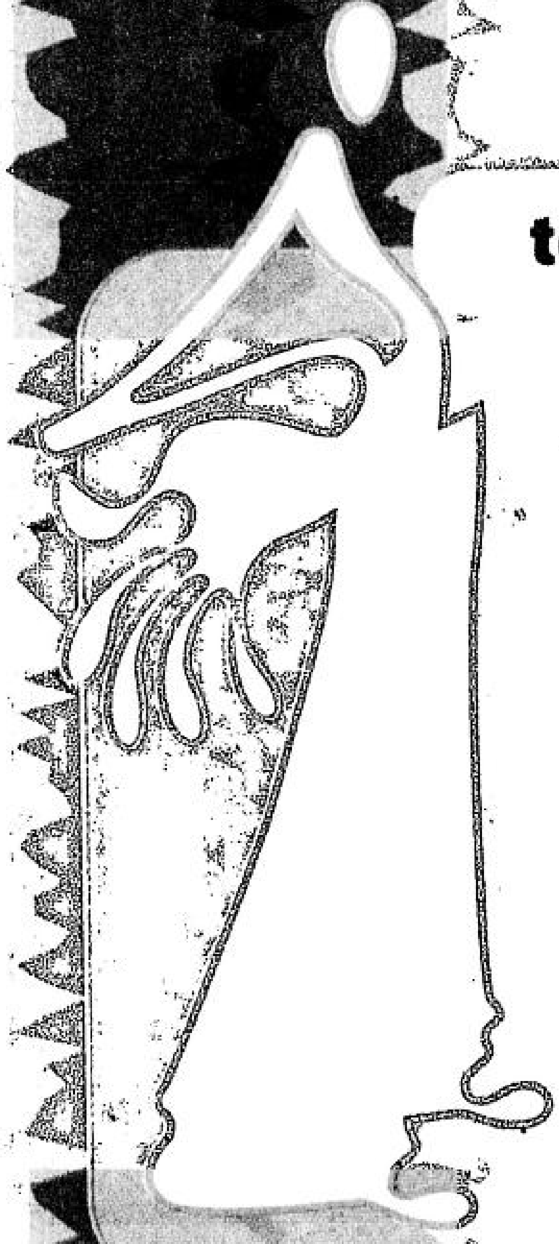

tones

rock

description	artist/composer	keyword
All Star	Smashmouth	TONE ALLSTAR
Black Dog	Led Zeppelin	TONE BLACKDOG
Head Over Heels	Tears For Fears	TONE HEDOVRHIL
Hotel California	Eagles	TONE HOTELCALI
Iris	Googoo Dolls	TONE IRIS
Jump	Van Halen	TONE JUMP
Layla	Eric Clapton	TONE LAYLA
Losing My Religion	REM	TONE LOSINMY
Love Potion No.9	Jed Leiber	TONE LUVPOTION
Other Side	Red Hot Chilli Peppers	TONE ODERSYD
Someday	Sugar Ray	TONE SUMDAY
Strange Love	Depeche Mode	TONE STRNGELV
The Final Countdown	Europe	TONE FINALCNT
Turning Japanese	Vapors	TONE JAPANIS
Under The Bridge	Red Hot Chilli Peppers	TONE UNDRBRDG
Whole Lotta Love	Led Zeppelin	TONE WHOLAATALUV

tv

description	artist/composer	keyword
Ally McBeal Theme	Vonda Shepard	TONE ALLMYC
Babylon 5 Theme	TV Cue	TONE BABYLONS
Batman Theme	Danny Elfman	TONE BATMAN
Dallas (TV Cue)	Stephen Inmel	TONE DALLAS
Doogie Howser Theme		TONE DOOGIE
Flintstone (TV Cue)	TV Cue	TONE FLINSTO
Jeopardy Theme	Merv Griffin	TONE JEPRDY
Scooby Doo Theme	Joseph Barbera	TONE SCOOBY
Simpsons Theme	Danny Elfman	TONE SIMPSONS

movie

description	artist/composer	keyword
Addams Family Theme	Mike Post	TONE ADDAMS
Animal Song	Savage Garden	TONE ANIMAL
Duel Of the Fates	Star Wars Episode 1	TONE EPISODE1
Dying Young	James Newton Howard	TONE DIEYOUNG
Godfather Theme	N. Rota	TONE GODFATHER
I Don't Wanna Miss A Thing	Mett Serlitia	TONE MISATING
I Say A Little Prayer	My Best Friend's Wedding	TONE SAYALIL
Rocky Theme	Carol Connors	TONE ROCKY
Star Wars 3 Theme	John Williams	TONE STRWARS3
Superman Theme	Leon Klatskin	TONE SUPERMAN
The Imperial March	The Empire Strikes Back	TONE IMPERIAL
Under The Sea	Little Mermaid	TONE UNDERSEA
Xmen Theme		TONE XMEN

special

description	artist/composer	keyword
Fiddler On The Roof	Harnick	TONE FIDDLER
Birdland	Joseph Zawinul	TONE BIRDLAND
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Kate Beckinsale grabs spotlight in 'Pearl Harbor'

By Bob Tourtellotte

HONOLULU—Big-time Hollywood names like Ben Affleck and explosive action scenes fill the screen of the $135 million "Pearl Harbor," but with the movie holding its premiere on Monday night, it just may be British actress Kate Beckinsale whose star shines the brightest.

KATE/p.E2

BECKINSALE AND AFFLECK. Love in a time of war.

The movie is Beckinsale's first splash in a big budget epic from a major studio

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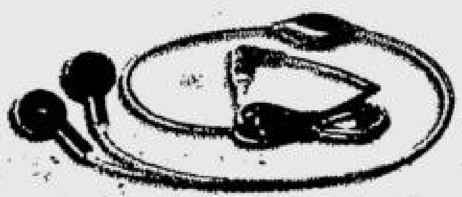

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Kate Beckinsale grabs spotlight in 'Pearl Harbor'

HARTNETT. Love triangle.

(From page E1)

Blockbuster

If a romantic storyline between Beckinsale's Navy nurse Evelyn Johnson and Affleck's pilot Rafe McCawley can pack women into theaters as did the love story in "Titanic," the film's backers will have a bona fide blockbuster on their hands and US audiences will have another major celebrity to adore.

The movie, which was made by the same team that produced highly charged action flicks like 1999's "Armageddon," also features a group of Navy nurses who "really just wanted to go to the beach, drink sodas and hang out with the boys," Beckinsale said. That, too, should boost the appeal to women.

"It's not really an action movie, and I think saying that would be doing it a disservice in a way," she said.

In the United States, the 27-year-old British-born Beckinsale may be familiar to lovers of independent movies, having appeared in films ranging from 1993's "Much Ado About Nothing," directed by Kenneth Branagh, to Whit Stillman's "The Last Days of Disco" in 1998.

Promotional firepower

"Pearl Harbor," however, is her first splash in a big budget epic backed by all the promotional firepower a major studio like The Walt Disney Co. can muster.

"(It) really hasn't sunk in," she said. "I've always loved acting and I've loved my jobs. I guess I'll deal with it (celebrity) when it comes."

The Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, in which Japanese pilots mounted a surprise attack on the United States, drawing America into the Second World War, is the backdrop for a story of a romantic triangle formed by Beckinsale's nurse, Evelyn Johnson, and two US Army Air Corps pilots.

Audiences get their first look at the actress's high cheekbones, flowing brunette hair and slender figure as she inoculates US Army Air Corps pilots for service, and that is where she meets flyboy Rafe McCawley (Ben Affleck).

While she is not immediately as taken by the soldier in his boxer shorts—she has to focus on plunging a syringe into his backside—as he is with her, Evelyn soon falls in love with the sincere sweet-talker from America's rural heartland.

Best buddy

Soon after they meet, Rafe volunteers to fly in the Battle of Britain, leaving Evelyn and his best buddy Danny Walker (Josh Harnett), who is also an Army pilot. With Rafe in England, Evelyn and Danny are ordered into duty in Hawaii.

Once there—Evelyn at Pearl Harbor's hospital and Danny at Wheeler Army Air Base—they learn McCawley's plane was shot down over the English Channel, and he is presumed dead.

After a period of mourning, they strike up their own affair.

"Somebody asked me 'who would you pick?' and I said: 'I've already had both, so I don't have to pick,'" joked Beckinsale.

But the new romance doesn't have much time to blossom because the day before the Japanese attack, McCawley shows up in Hawaii. He is alive and looking for the love of his life.

From there, the three must resolve their obvious conflict as war rages around them. For guys, there is plenty of action, including a 40-minute re-enactment of the assault on Pearl Harbor that is a major highlight. For girls, Evelyn and the Navy nurses provide a look at the effects of war on women.

Love story

"I'm telling you," director Michael Bay told Reuters, "in a love story, stuff we think is too sappy, they think is great."

Beckinsale, whose parents are British actress Judy Loe and the late Richard Beckinsale, said she never wanted to be a big, Hollywood movie star and like many teenage kids and young adults she struggled with different career paths.

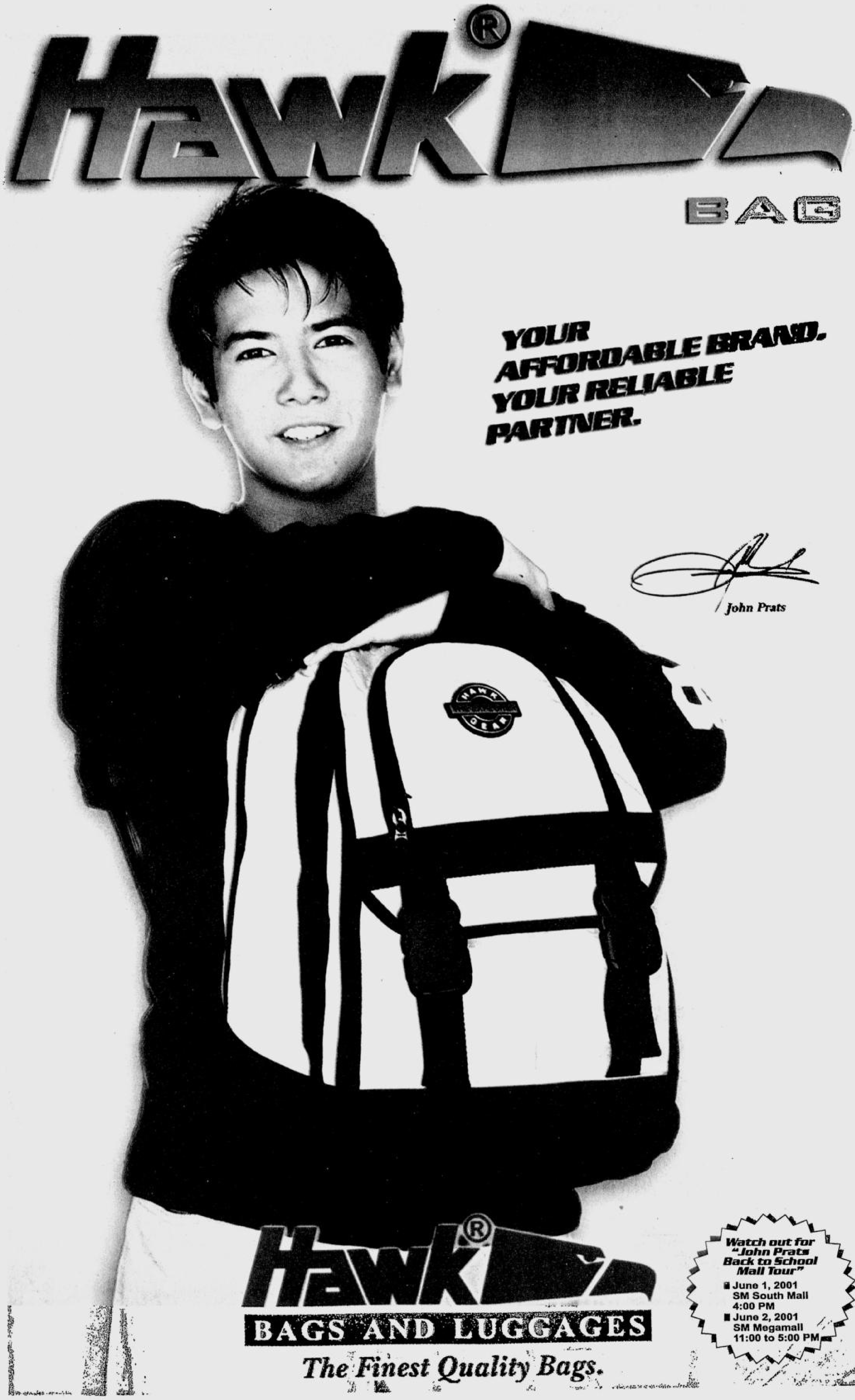
She attended Oxford University to study French and Russian literature, but an occasional role turned up in British TV or film. She enjoyed the work, so after three years at Oxford, she decided to leave school and pursue acting.

Beckinsale said her 2-year-old daughter, Lily, keeps her grounded. She lives with Lily's father and longtime companion Michael Sheen, also an actor.

While a lot of recent media attention focused on American actress Renee Zellweger playing Englishwoman Bridget Jones in "Bridget Jones's Diary," Beckinsale said nationality should have little to do with an actor winning a job.

"That's a small part of a role, of course it's an important part, but there's a lot more that goes into it," she said.

Audiences can see more of Beckinsale in the Merchant/Ivory film "The Golden Bowl," currently in US theaters, and the upcoming "Serendipity" set for August 2001. And if "Pearl Harbor" turns out to be as big a blockbuster as its makers expect, then US audiences will likely see much more of her in years to come. *Reuters*



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Five questions for Uma Thurman

By Samantha Critchell

THURMAN. Not a city girl.

NEW YORK—On the screen, Uma Thurman is the ultimate arthouse siren, known for her sexy roles in "Dangerous Liaisons" and "Pulp Fiction."

In real life, Thurman is a working mom who wears jeans and sandals, and is happy to compare notes on Manhattan's kid-friendly parks.

The 31-year-old actress was born in Boston and raised in Amherst, Massachusetts. Her father is Robert Thurman, a prominent Tibet scholar.

She flees the city whenever possible for the country, where she pursues her passion for gardening.

"I have a side to me that loves city life but I'm not a city girl," says Thurman, who is married to actor Ethan Hawke. They have a 3-year-old daughter, Maya.

Selective

Because her family, not her career, is the center of her world, Thurman says she's become even more selective about her film projects.

But she couldn't pass up the opportunity to work with producer Ismail Merchant and director James Ivory in the adaptation of Henry James' "The Golden Bowl."

She's also very frank in saying that she recently agreed to appear in ads for Lancome cosmetics because it's a lucrative contract for 15 days of work a year.

"Modeling seemed like a nice answer to giving me something to do and an additional way to support my family that really didn't take me away from home at all."

Have you ever met another Uma?

There's a Boston newscaster, an Indian woman who is Uma. There are thousands of Umas in India but I don't get over there too much.

Piano-playing skills

In "The Golden Bowl," your character charms her husband with her knowledge of art and her piano-playing skills. Do you share those interests?

I'm sort of a self-taught person. I stopped school in high school and I never went to college, so I kind of learn from living. I'm not some superpolished Yale graduate . . . And I had many years of lessons but I'm a terrible nonexistent piano player.

Do you consider yourself a Hollywood veteran?

I sort of am. At a certain point I realized I had to survive being an 'ingenue'—being able to grow up in cinema and become a woman in cinema . . . There aren't many people I started with and who I admired when I started working that are still around. It's a tough business.

Does it bother you that you're described as the "beautiful" Uma Thurman and not "the actress" Uma Thurman?

It only bothers me when it's meant to be condescending. If it's not meant to be condescending, it's very flattering. Frankly, all the successful actresses in Hollywood are all 'beautiful' . . . So it doesn't really mean anything.

Clotheshorse

Are you a clotheshorse?

I'm a jeans and perfect T-shirt person most of the time. And Birkenstocks. That's sort of my secret life. And I love to get dressed up every so often. It's fun to 'clean up' and it's nice to know that you still can—and know there is someone under there that can still look good if you put a little makeup on and polish up. *AP*

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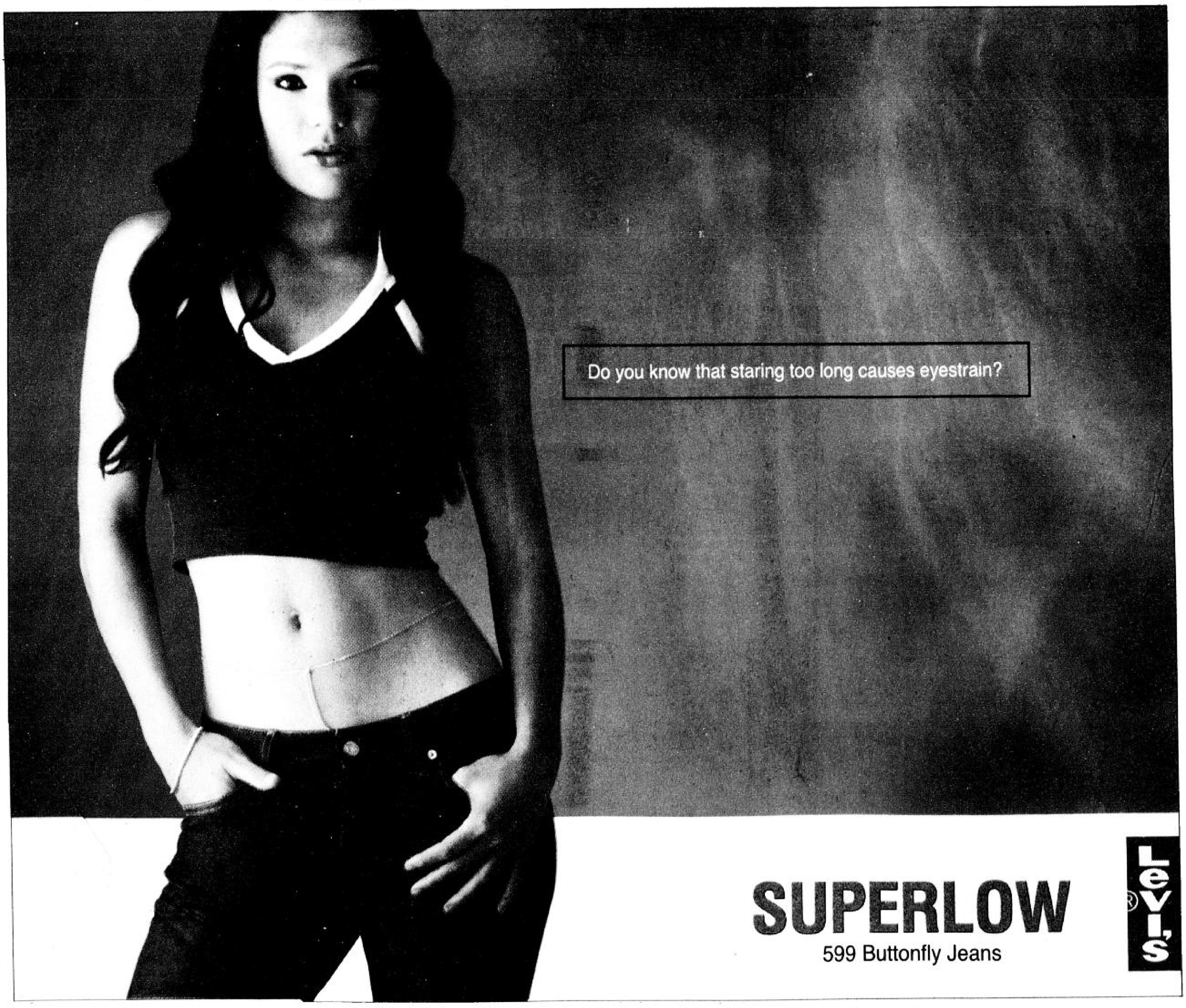
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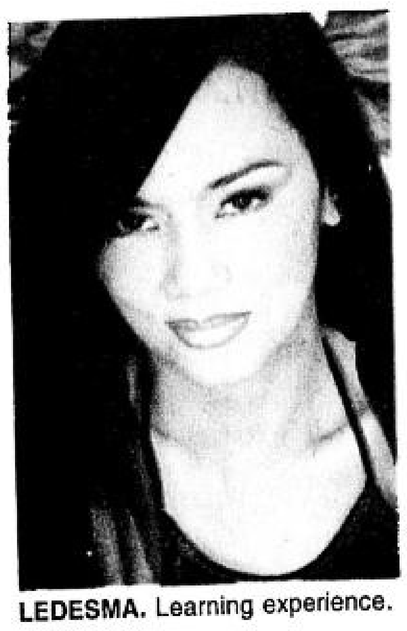
Kuh Ledesma is coming up with a socially relevant concert



LEDESMA. Learning experience.

By Edmund L. Sicam

IT seems Kuh Ledesma has been bitten by the political bug. At her press conference at the Manila Hotel to promote her concert, "Kuh Sings Streisand," she kept going back to politics—and how dirty it is, as she experienced first-hand during the last elections. Kuh ran as standard bearer of Pinatubo in the party list elections.

Concept

According to the singer, "Kuh Sings Streisand" was a concept that the Manila Hotel wanted her to do. She accepted, of course, but she is also trying to find ways to inject some social relevance into the show.

"So I am going to fuse it with politics, love and life," she says. She is aware, though, that she could turn off her audience with such serious talk. So she is trying to do this without sounding like she is giving a sermon. "I'm doing my best to write it so it won't be *mabigat*," she says.

Rey Cristobal is the show's musical director and an orchestra will accompany her. She has invited Regine Velasquez and Chad Borja to do some Streisand duets with her. She says that Regine is one of her favorite persons to work with. "She is professional, she knows her music, she's a fast learner . . . *at saka walang arte*!" Chad will be joining Kuh in singing Streisand's duets with Andy Gibb and her other current duet partners.

She admits that there are some singers who are very difficult. "Of course we will not mention names—singing is supposed to be enjoyable, not an unpleasant experience! Some singers feel they're too big for more rehearsals. *Ako kasi, gusto ko malinis na malinis.* I want to be confident when I go onstage. It can become scary *pag ang ka*-partner *mo nawawala*!"

Inspiration

Streisand, says Kuh, is "a model of excellence in her field." "She has become an inspiration for me to do really well as an artist because I've seen the possibilities."

Kuh watched Streisand perform live in Los Angeles. Kuh shares that her mother was awestruck by Streisand's performance. Kuh teased her that her mouth was open the whole time, "Ma, you don't' watch me like that, *ha!*" she jokingly chided her.

Character

She attributes Streisand's success to one thing: "She has character, *kasi*—her face! She's interesting, she's unique!"

Kuh ran under the party list PMP Pinatubo, which is not doing well in the Comelec or Namfrel counts. Win or lose, she says that the campaign has really been a learning experience for her. "It's an eye-opener to what's going on in our country. *Mas nakaka-walang gana kasi talagang* first hand, you see it." Her conclusion: "We have to wipe out all the bad politicians in the country!"

She questions the sincerity of many politicians. "You wonder why someone running for congressman would spend P50 to P100 million to win. How does he get it back? Is he being magnanimous, is he a billionaire so he can throw away money because he loves the province so much?"

But in spite of this, she is not disillusioned. In fact, it has pushed her even more to run for office. "I'm going to start campaigning now for 2004, not only for Pinatubo, for other candidates as well. If we are concerned about changing the face of politics in our country, we have to start now!"

She admits that she's considering running for the Senate as well, but first, she wants to see how it goes at the congressional level.

Later on in our conversation, she says that she could run for mayor of Pasay City. Whoever wins in the Pasay elections this year, watch out! "If our mayor doesn't do well, whoever wins, this year, I may think of running for mayor, although Pasay is difficult,that's where the *talagang* depressed areas are."

Album

Back to show biz, Kuh is now in the process of putting together material for an album with all original cuts. "*Ang tagal na! Ang hirap kasi maghanap ng* material."

She is also busy with her Republic of Malate. They are implementing changes to keep up with the times. They are switching to a combination of dancing and live music. Survival Café, found within Republic of Malate, will feature singer Cynthia Alexander. They are coming up with poetry and comedy nights.

Kuh is also planning an anniversary concert this September or October. She's calling it "Ayoko ng Third World!" She is not rejecting the countries that fall under this classification, but she rationalizes, "Who wants to be in a Third World country? Do we want to be Third World in our way of thinking—elections, and all that?"

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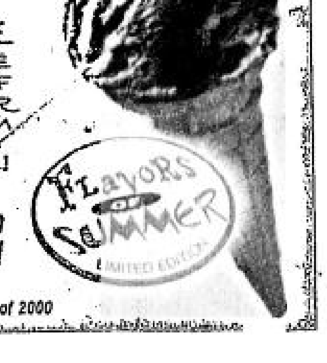

aturday SPECIAL

CHARLIZE has been turning heads for most of her life.

Charlize Theron harks back to the golden days of Hollywood

By Nestor U. Torre

IN THE '50s and '60s, veteran film buffs grouse, movie stars *looked* like movie stars—great beauties like Greta Garbo and Ingrid Bergman, and debonair gallants like Cary Grant and Rock Hudson. Today, however, they look like—well, John Malkovich and Kirsten Dunst!

CHARLIZE/p.F2

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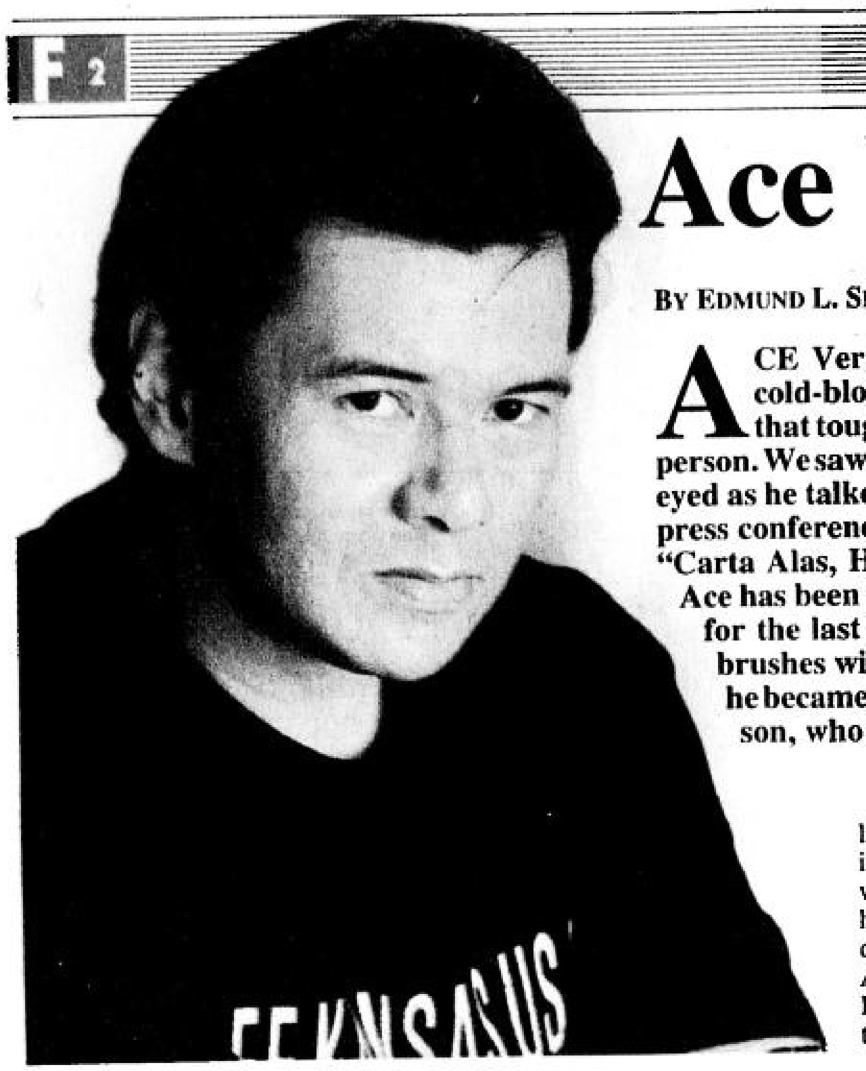


VERGEL. Good track record at the box office.

Ace Vergel returns to the film scene

By Edmund L. Sicam

ACE Vergel may look fearless and cold-blooded onscreen but beneath that tough exterior is a soft-hearted person. We saw this when he became teary-eyed as he talked about his son during the press conference for his comeback movie, "Carta Alas, Huwag Ka Nang Humirit."

Ace has been away from the movie scene for the last three years because of his brushes with the law. That's also why he became emotional talking about his son, who is going abroad to study.

Big following

Despite his absence from the limelight, he still has a big following so FLT Films has cast him in, what else, an action picture, where he plays an incorruptible cop. Writer-director Jose Carreon describes Ace's role as someone like Dirty Harry who sometimes must use extra-legal means to get the bad guys.

Co-stars Antoinette Taus and Wowie de Guzman play thieves who are reformed by Ace. Does Ace end up with Antoinette in the final reel? Carreon asked everyone to see the movie for the answer. Efren Reyes, Jr. and Dick Israel are the bad guys while Piel Morena provides the sexual element. "Carta Alas" was shot in Pampanga, Pangasinan and Tarlac, so Ace had to be away from home most of the time.

This is the first time that Ace is working with Carreon, so he says there was a period of adjustment during the first few shooting days. Before long, the two hit it off and ended as good friends after the shoot.

Although the movie promises to be an action-packed production, Carreon says he restrained himself because he wants the movie to get a PG-13 rating. The MTRCB's perceived strictness was one of the main factors, he says.

FLT feels confident that Ace will continue to deliver box office hits despite the ongoing slump on the film scene. None of Ace's previous films have bombed at the takilya.

> With his legal troubles apparently over, Ace is reacquainting himself with the world he loves so much – moviemaking

Short answers

Ace, whose last movie was "Armado" for Star Cinema, is glad to be back. At the presscon, however, he could only manage to give short answers to questions. He also mumbled a lot so we weren't able to get some of the things he said.

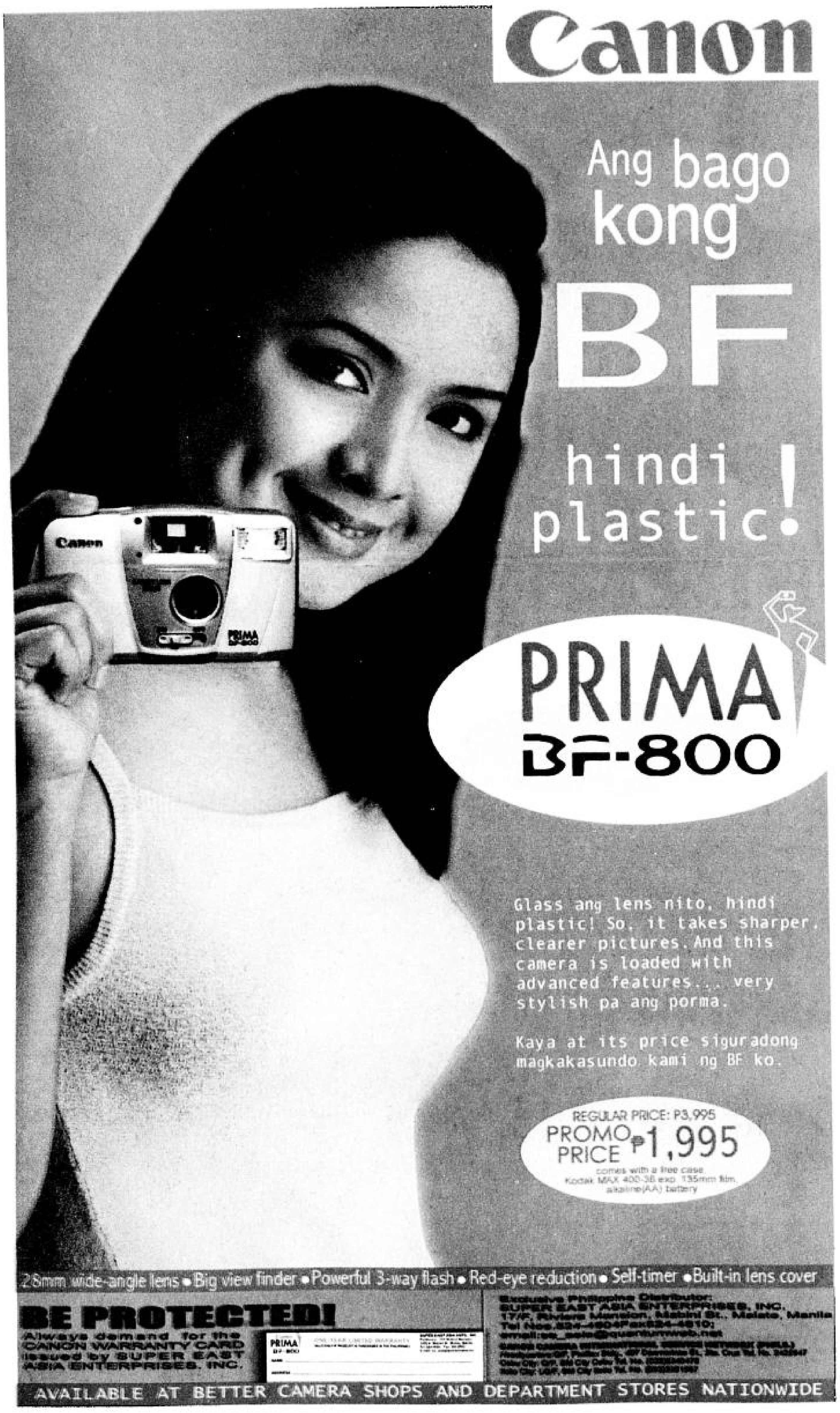
What were the last three years like? "*Tuliro*" was the word he used to describe himself.

Someone asked him if he still believes in the justice system after what happened to him. He took a long pause before he answered. Ace said he still believed in the system but there were certain individuals who made things hard for him. He added that, despite all the evidence he presented, he was still made to look bad. But deep in his heart, he knew that justice would prevail in the end.

With his legal troubles apparently over, Ace is reacquainting himself with the world he loves so much – moviemaking. His wish is that his fans have not forgotten him and will continue to support his projects.

On the personal side, he confirmed that his marriage to Maya de la Cuesta has been annulled but he has no one special at the moment. Does he consider himself a failure as a father? An emphatic "no" was his answer. "As a husband, maybe," he added.

Ased how he wanted to be remembered, Ace replied, "As someone who helps people."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Charlize Theron harks back to the golden days of Hollywood

(From page F1)

Exceptions

Thank goodness, there are some exceptions, great-looking luminaries who are also charismatic and gifted actors. One of these special talents who hark back to the golden days of Hollywood, when stars looked like stars, is Charlize Theron.

In only five years, Theron has co-starred with some of the best male leads in the movies—with Keanu Reeves in "The Devil's Advocate" *and* "Sweet November," Matt Damon and Will Smith in "The Legend of Bagger Vance," Mark Wahlberg and Joaquin Phoenix in "The Yards," Johnny Depp in "The Astronaut's wife," Ben Affleck in "Reindeer Games," Tobey Maguire in "The Cider House Rules"—and she hasn't really hit her stride, not by a long shot.

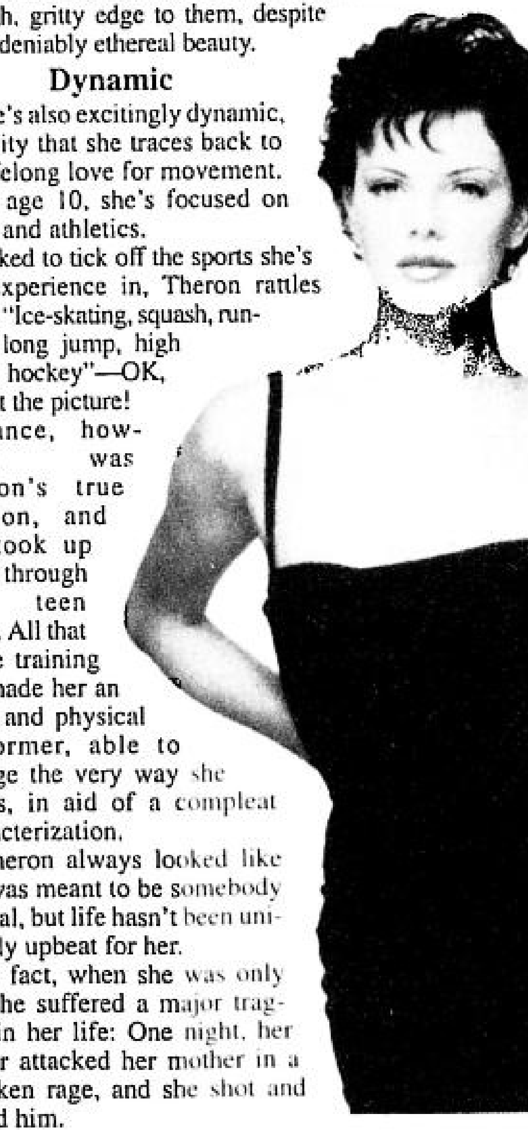
Plus points

What has given Theron the edge, the unique combination of plus points to land these and other plum roles?

She was born in a remote town in South Africa but, even as a child, she loved going to the movies. That opened up a world of imagination that made her want to be a movie actor herself.

At 5'10" and drop-dead gorgeous, Theron has been turning heads for most of her life. Her allure and glamour bring back memories of the glittering, legendary stars of Hollywood's golden years.

But her approach to performing is definitely modern and with-it, and this shows in the types of roles she has played. She's focused, straightforward and no-nonsense, and her performances have a tough, gritty edge to them, despite her undeniably ethereal beauty.



Dynamic

She's also excitingly dynamic, a quality that she traces back to her lifelong love for movement. Since age 10, she's focused on ballet and athletics.

Asked to tick off the sports she's had experience in, Theron rattles away: "Ice-skating, squash, running, long jump, high jump, hockey"—OK, we get the picture!

Dance, however, was Theron's true passion, and she took up ballet through her teen years. All that dance training has made her an agile and physical performer, able to change the very way she walks, in aid of a compleat characterization.

Theron always looked like she was meant to be somebody special, but life hasn't been uniformly upbeat for her.

In fact, when she was only 15, she suffered a major tragedy in her life: One night, her father attacked her mother in a drunken rage, and she shot and killed him.

Trauma

No charges were filed, but it took Theron years to get over the trauma of that terrible experience.

When she was 16, she joined a local modelling contest—just for a lark, with no expectation that it would lead to anything big for her.

Well, it immediately took her to Milan, Italy, for a modelling stint, and one job led to another, until Theron decided to try her luck in New York.

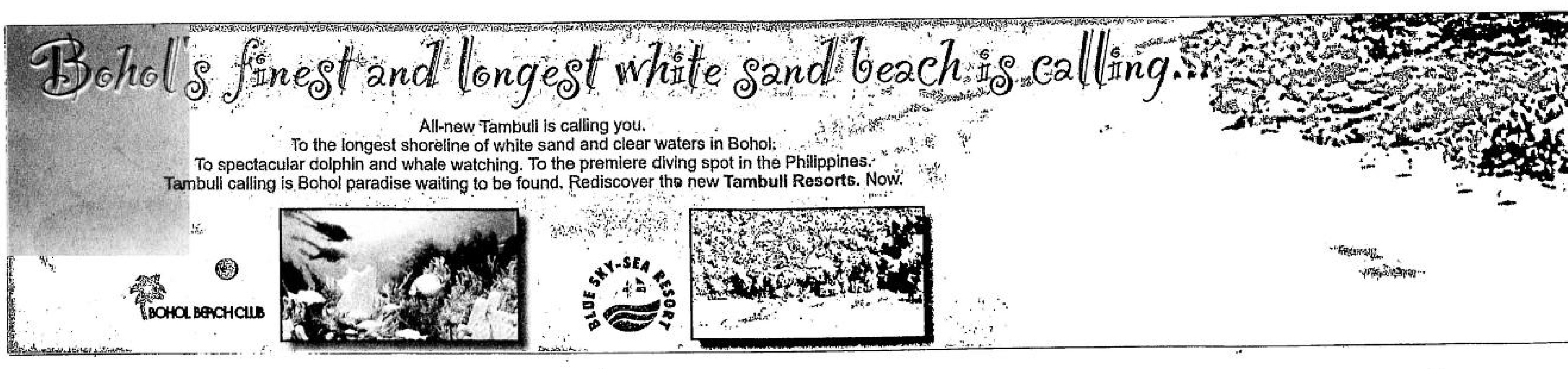
She really wanted to be a ballerina, so she took classes at the Joffrey Ballet School. But a knee injury put an end to her fledgling ballet career, so Theron decided to become an actor.

Big argument

She moved to Los Angeles and tried to break into the movies. Despite her great looks, she didn't have an easy time of it. She had little money, a raging ulcer, and no doors opening up for her—until she got into a big argument at a bank over a check that a teller refused to cash.

Theron recalls that she really needed the money to put food on the table, so she was screaming and carrying on to get the teller to change her mind. She threw such an impressive tantrum that she caught the eye of a talent manager who just happened to be in the bank and thus witnessed her all-stops-out performance.

After Theron had simmered down, the talent manager offered to handle her—and she was finally on her way! ***(To be concluded)***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VIGNETTES FROM CANNES FILMFEST

Rosanna Arquette directs docu on Hollywood women

BY CLAR NI CHONGHAILE

CANNES, France—After 24 years in front of the camera, Rosanna Arquette has switched sides and turned her gaze on women in Hollywood.

For her directorial debut, Arquette is making a documentary that examines the challenges facing actresses as they juggle careers, relationships and motherhood, while facing the onset of career-crippling wrinkles.

Arquette has assembled a stellar cast of cinema stalwarts to share their experiences on camera, including Vanessa Redgrave, Jane Fonda, Meg Ryan, Holly Hunter, Charlotte Rampling and Debra Winger.

The working title for the film is "Searching for Debra Winger."

"As a fan, I wanted to know why Debra Winger—a truly amazing actress—left the business," Arquette told Variety magazine. She was in town to support her sister, Patricia, who stars in Michel Gondry's wacky "Human Nature," which is showing out of competition here.

"In France it's okay to grow older . . . But when a woman grows old in America, she's perceived as having less to offer when you have so much more to offer in every way," she said.

A study of a broken marriage

Last year at Cannes, before "The Anniversary Party" had even started shooting, someone asked Jennifer Jason Leigh what her hopes were for the film, which she co-wrote and co-directed with Alan Cumming.

"I said, 'To be back at Cannes with it next year,' and he went, 'Ha, ha, ha,'" because he did not think it possible the film would be done by then, Leigh said in an interview.

But Leigh and Cumming shot quickly on digital video last summer and finished the movie early this year.

The two star as a newly reconciled Hollywood couple whose marriage comes apart again during an evening among friends. The film co-stars a mix of their friends, including Gwyneth Paltrow, Kevin Kline, John C. Reilly and Phoebe Cates.

"We just wanted Cannes," Leigh said. "This is what we'd always hoped for."

Aspiring actress

Cannes is a mecca for wannabe actors and actresses, and this year one of the most noticeable was French woman Karine Schraub.

For two weeks, she walked up and down

ROSANNA/ p.F4

DEBRA Winger appears in Arquette's first directorial effort.

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Extra person charges as follows:
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**** Valid for local residents from June 1 - Sept. 30, 2001 only.*

REST OF THE BOYS. They specialize in dance tunes.

Rest of the Boys, crowd pleasers

"I WONDER if you can interview the members of the Rest of the Boys band for me. I read a short item about them and heard their name on the radio. I want to buy a CD recording of their band but that doesn't satisfy my curiosity. As an old man, I feel enlivened by their upbeat tunes." — *Francisco G. Acosta of 761 Lt. mario Castro St., Cavite City, 4100*

Rest of the Boys

Old Band Name: Boys Ov'Her

Formula for success: Determination and perseverance

Repertoire: Dance music. They do '70s, '80s and '90s music along with ballads and pop.

Band Profile: Loralee Jaramillo- (female vocals) 23 years old; a graduate of Ryan Cayabyab's music school; Roji Soriano-(male vocals), 27 years old, an optometrist who runs his own clinic; Jonathan Tamayo-(male vocals), 25 years old, a physical therapist and graduate of Ryan Cayabyab's music school;

Mel Santos-(keyboards), 28 years old, former keyboard player of True Colors and Metrolopolis, musical arranger and composer; Almer Calinisan-(bass guitar),22 years old; Manny Reyes-(lead guitar), 25 years old, Ronnel Ducay-(drums), 28 years old, band leader.

Q and A:

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Mary Ann A. Bautista

What's your edge over other bands?

Rommel: We want our audience to be wild. Dance music is our specialty.

Roji: Our goal every night is to make our audience dance on the ledge or come up onstage. It's very unusual if we don't see anyone dancing.

How do you handle requests? Are there songs which you'd rather not sing?

Loralee: We rehearse twice a week. We never stop rehearsing so we're always prepared when we have requests. We have about 600 songs in our repertoire! We sing Will Smith's "Wild, Wild West" and old songs like "You Don't Know Me Well."

Mel: We want our audience to be satisfied. *Kahit anong kanta, kakantahin namin* onstage. *Hindi kami namimili.*

What's the worst thing that has happened to you as a band?

Jonathan: Being classified as a show band. We sing our original songs sometimes but our audience prefers covers, so we give them what they want. Customers spend to hear us so they should get their money's worth. We have original songs so we can't be labelled as a show band.

Loralee: We performed in very small places before we had gigs in Makati, Quezon City and Manila. I can't call it the worst because it's helped us grow as musicians.

Roji: We want to keep our feet planted on the ground. *Tutugtog kami kahit saan. Kumakanta kami kahit sa* debut *at kasal.* We want to be known as crowd pleasers.

What's the most challenging music for you?

Ronnel: Everytime our manager gives us a jazz song, it takes us weeks to perfect it. But if she gives us a dance tune, it just takes a few minutes to perfect the sound and blending. It's difficult to do a jazz song!

How would you like to be remembered as a band?

Mel: Energetic and lively! *Lupaypay na kami pero gagalaw pa rin kami!* Every night, we feel like giving our audience a full concert.

Rosanna Arquette directs docu on Hollywood women

(From page F3)

the Croisette, her face and shoulders surrounded by an enormous, attention-grabbing picture frame. She handed her resume to everyone who would talk to her. It read, "Self-promotion. Because I'm worth it."

"So far, there haven't been any directors stopping me and saying, 'She's the one,'" said the sprightly 25-year-old Parisian. "I'm telling myself, there's no risk, apart from getting sunburned."

So what kind of films would she be interested in? What directors would she like to work with? "Uh, I'm not at the stage where I can be demanding," she said.

Fewer Americans

As weary buyers and sellers packed their bags after nearly two weeks of wheeling and dealing, the verdict was coming in on the Cannes Market, home to the industry executives who come to this Riviera city each year, seeking opportunities.

This year, there were fewer Americans. more Asians and a five percent overall rise in participants to 6,350.

"It is a little less strong than we had originally thought," said Jerome Paillard, head of the Market.

"Fewer people registered on site. The biggest drop was among Americans. But the Korean participation grew significantly," he said.

But companies from nearby Japan, like U.S. firms, were feeling the effects of the economic slowdown.

"Japan is still worrisome. The economic outlook is uncertain, as is the outlook for distribution of films and video," Paillard said.

AP

Umm... just five more Minutes pleazzzzzz

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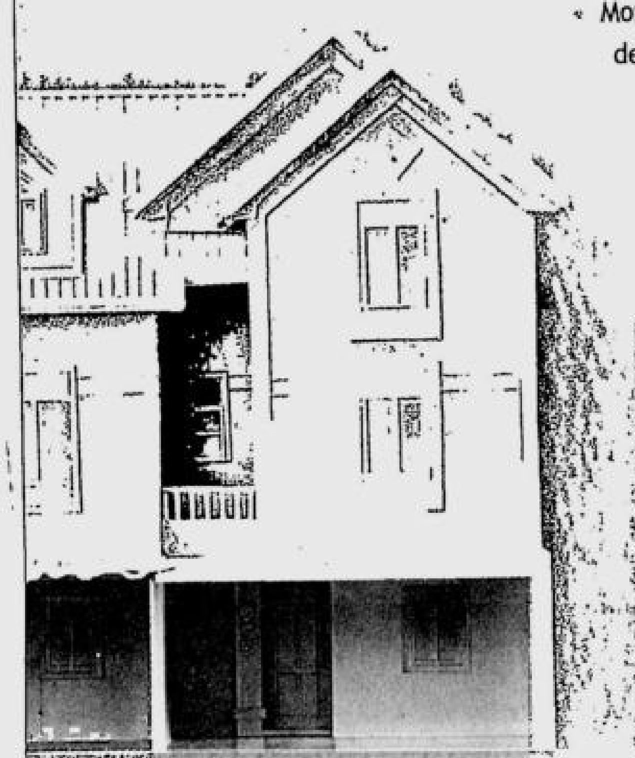

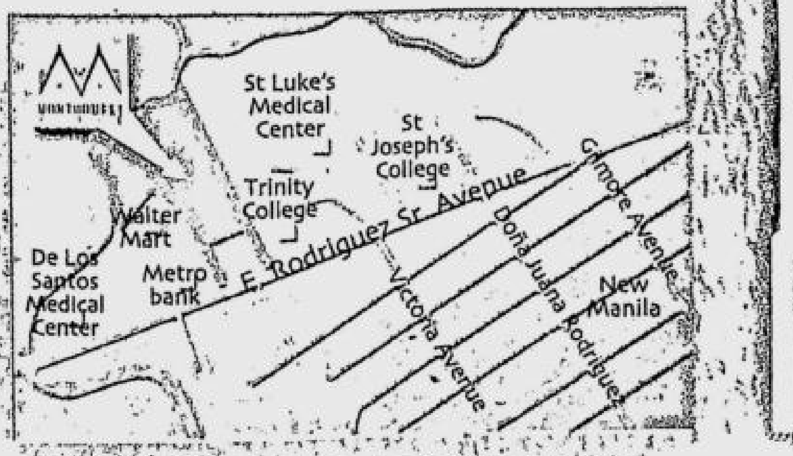

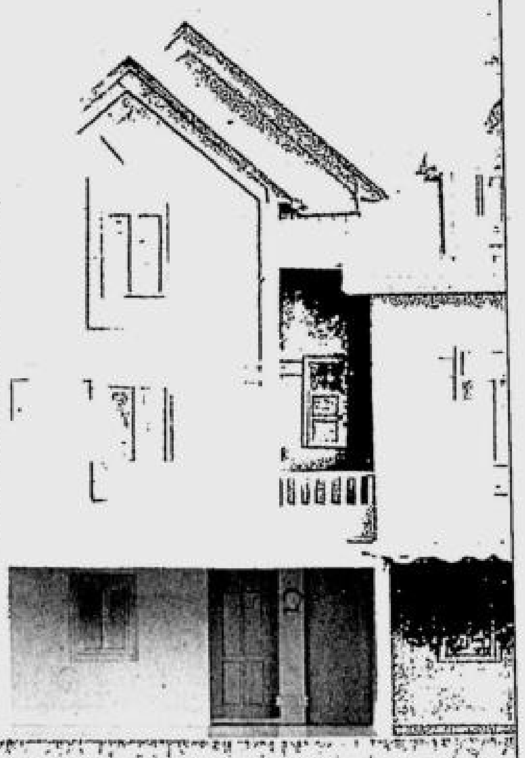

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BACK to SCHOOL

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor
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Teachers should reflect parents' values

BY ANNALYN S. PINEDA

"NO MORE pencils, no more books…no more teachers dirty looks…"

Most students perhaps have been chanting this famous line of Bugs Bunny for more or less two months now but those days will soon be over as we count the days down to June.

Another school year's about to start, which explains the sudden rush to shop for new books, shoes and bags; the eagerness to see old classmates and meet new friends; the excitement to slip on to old uniforms…

But parents are just as anxious as their children are. They're as much concerned with homework, exams and report cards. They may seem to be mere spectators at times but they too are anticipating what their child's "second parents" have to offer. So, we asked parents what they wish should be taught more in school aside from the basic subjects. Check out their answers.

"I think teachers should focus more on teaching moral values to the kids. The school, being their second home, should instill in them ideals that would help them become good citizens." – **Cristina S. de Leon**, 49, has twin toddlers in preparatory school.

"Parents are very concerned with what their kids are doing outside the house and it scares us if they would turn to bad company. I hope my children's teachers would touch on the awareness on the negative effects of vices and drug addiction so they will know what these can do to them." – **Florante Bituin**, 42, has four daughters: two in college, one in high school and one in elementary.

"Love, sex and marriage should be included in the list of subjects. I understand that some schools offer sex education but they fail to make the students comprehend the true value of the subject hence some plunge into premarital sex and early marriage without considering the consequences." – **Estrellita A. Ramos**, 50, has two children in their early adulthood.

"Good manners and right conduct should be taught more in school. It's sad that youngsters of today's generation just don't know how to deport themselves most especially during formal gatherings." **Mercedes S. Navarro**, 51, has three children: the youngest in her third year in college.

"I wish my children would see a clearer view of life and how to make the most of it. Parents can't just leave it to the teachers to do the task but it sure would help if they could nurture what we have inculcated in their minds through the subjects they teach." – **Alfredo R. Cruz**, 47, has three children: two are in high school.

"Values are the foundation of the formative processes in a child's development so teachers should teach more of these. I believe that values develop not only a child's character but also his convictions in life." – **Estrellita B. Quinay**, 50, has three children who studied the arts.

"Kids nowadays fail to notice the things they're missing maybe because they have been confined to sheltered lives. I think they need to be reminded of their social obligation to the environment so they would become aware of its preservation." – **Emerita P. Tullao**, 56, has three daughters: two in college, the youngest in high school.

"I want to see my boys interacting well with the people around them while earning their respect and I think social arts could help in bringing out that side of the kids." - **Romeo Barcelona**, 45, has three children in elementary school.

> 'The school, being their second home, should instill in them ideals that would help them become good citizens'

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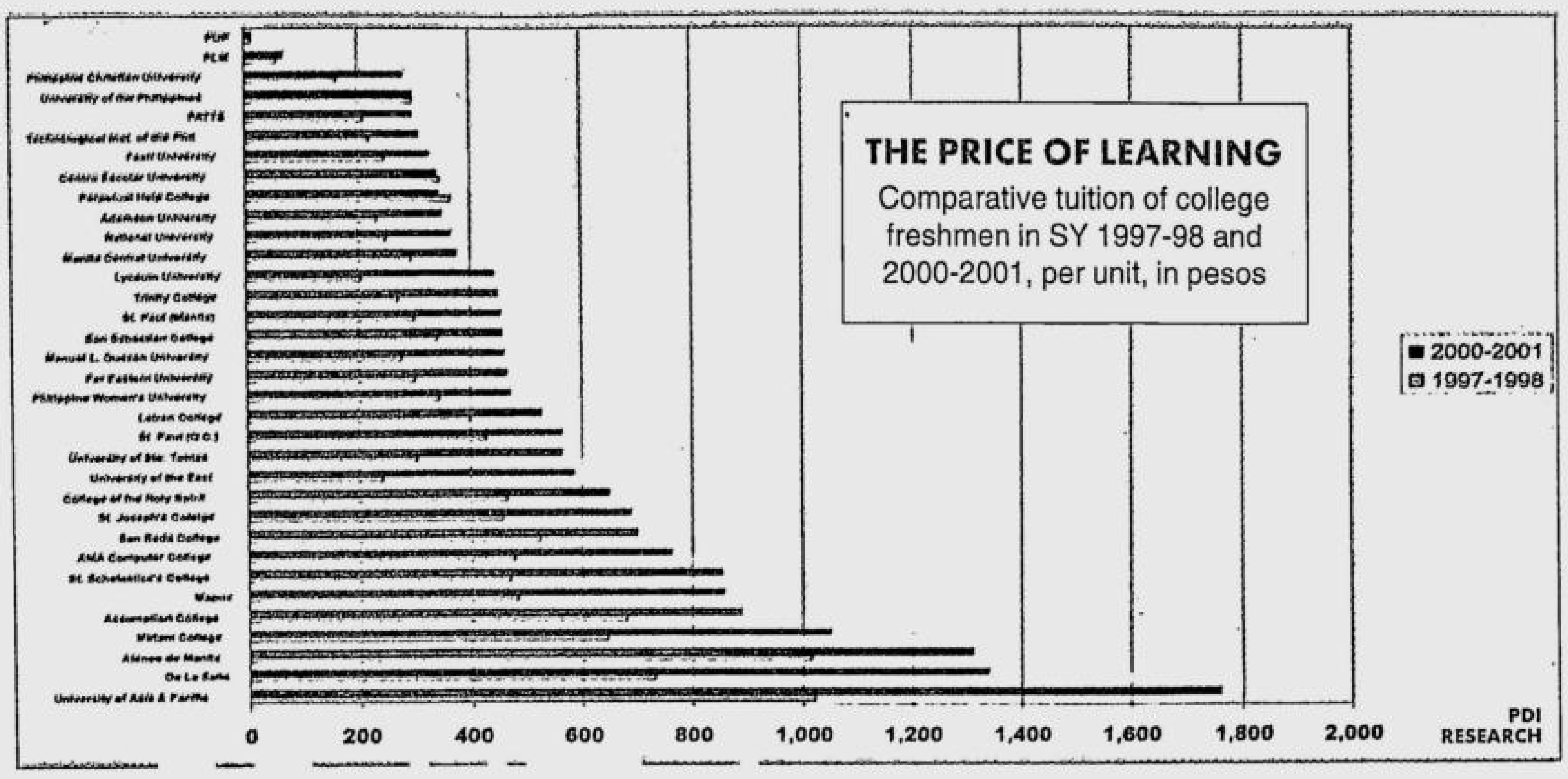

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Expressions' discounts on E-Star Pass

SUMMER'S out and school's in. After summer outings and wild gimmicks, it's time again to shop for school supplies. There's good news for all shoppers out there. Expressions' has come out with the "E-Star Pass."

Starting May 1, Expressions' representatives have been visiting schools, colleges, malls and favorite hang-outs, and handing out free E-Star Passes. The next step is to visit your nearest Expressions' store and buy all the supplies you need, because you'll automatically get a 10-percent discount on your first purchase, as long as you flash your E-Star Pass. (The E-Star Pass can be used for any minimum purchase as well, except for discounted items). Then each time you shop at any Expressions' outlet, the store records your purchase on your E-Star Pass. On your 8th visit to Expressions, you'll get to pick-out a surprise gift from Expressions and will also receive a brand new E-Star Pass, for another 10 percent discount on purchases on your next visit. Promo ends April 30, 2002.

At Expressions, you'll get to pick out cool pens, unique and colorful daily diaries, lots of notebooks and stationeries among so many other things. It's time to strut your stuff at school and definitely, be well prepared for this year's challenges.

Check out the Expressions' outlets nearest you.

School time is shoe time

SCHOOL year is just around the corner, and it's time to buy new bags, notebooks, and other school accessories, especially new pairs of shoes. The little ones will surely be happier with a new set of shoes. There's always a look of confidence in their very faces once you see them wearing brand new shoes.

It's hard to choose the perfect shoe that would fit your sons or daughters. Richwell Trading Corporation, distributor of several children's shoes, makes sure parents won't have a hard time choosing the pair that would best fit their child. Barbie Shoes for girls who want to be trendy and fashionable comes with different designs. Chicco Shoes, known for its distinct quality and style, is also a sure hit for parents and kids alike for its attractive designs. Bubblegummers--the shoes for kids who want to make a difference--is also gaining popularity. Other brands of shoes from Richwell include Looney Tunes, Sesame Street and PBA Shoes.

All these are available in all leading department stores nationwide. Richwell Trading Corporation is located at 25 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

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Garcia was educated and trained in prestigious Catholic colleges in the Philippines and abroad. A former college guidance counselor in Miriam College (then Maryknoll), Garcia is a psychologist and behavioral science specialist who has devoted her life and career to educating adolescents.

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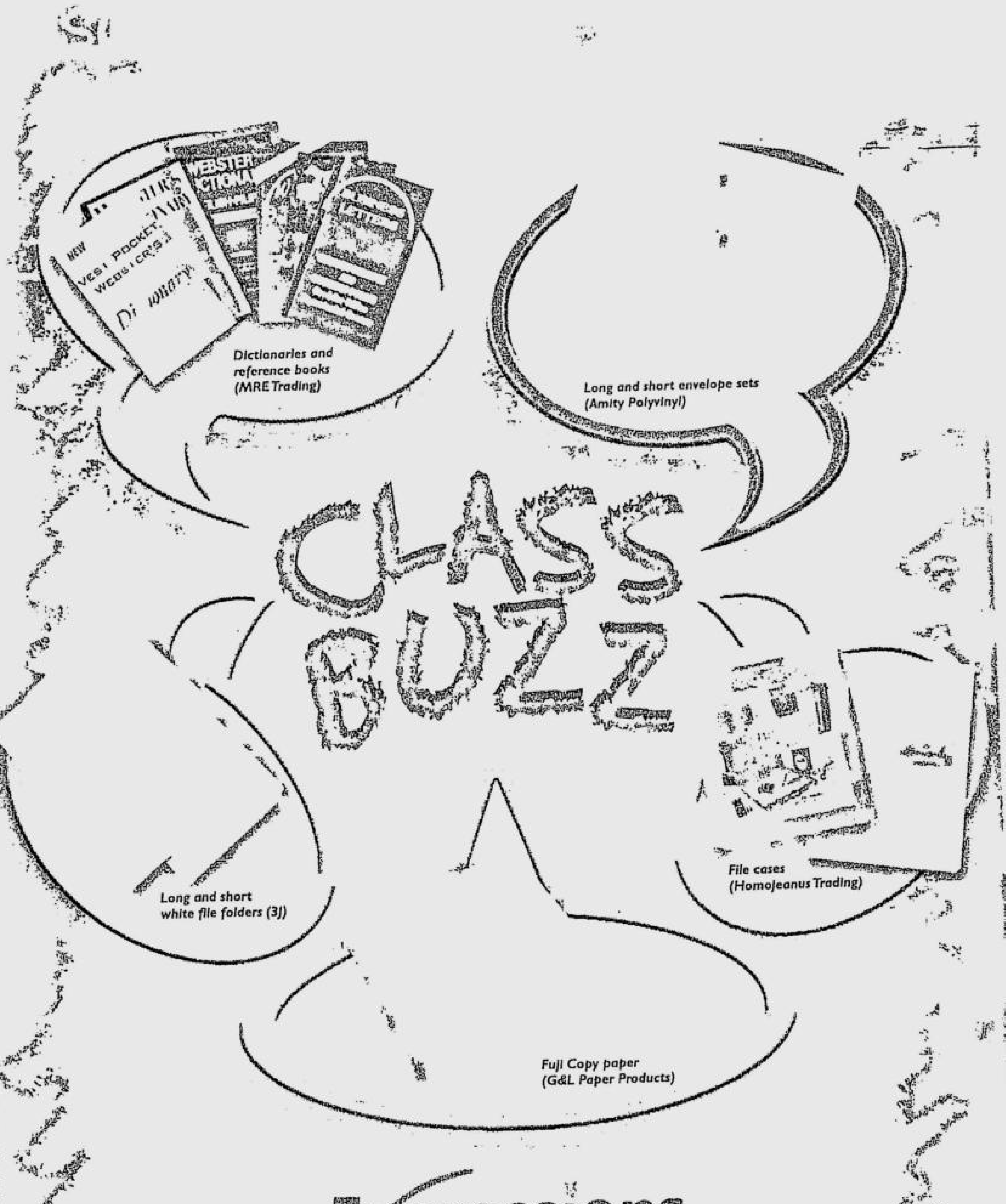
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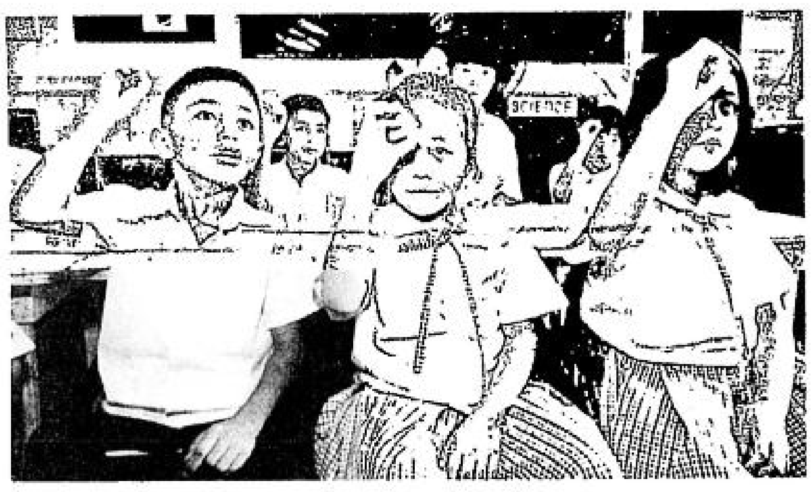

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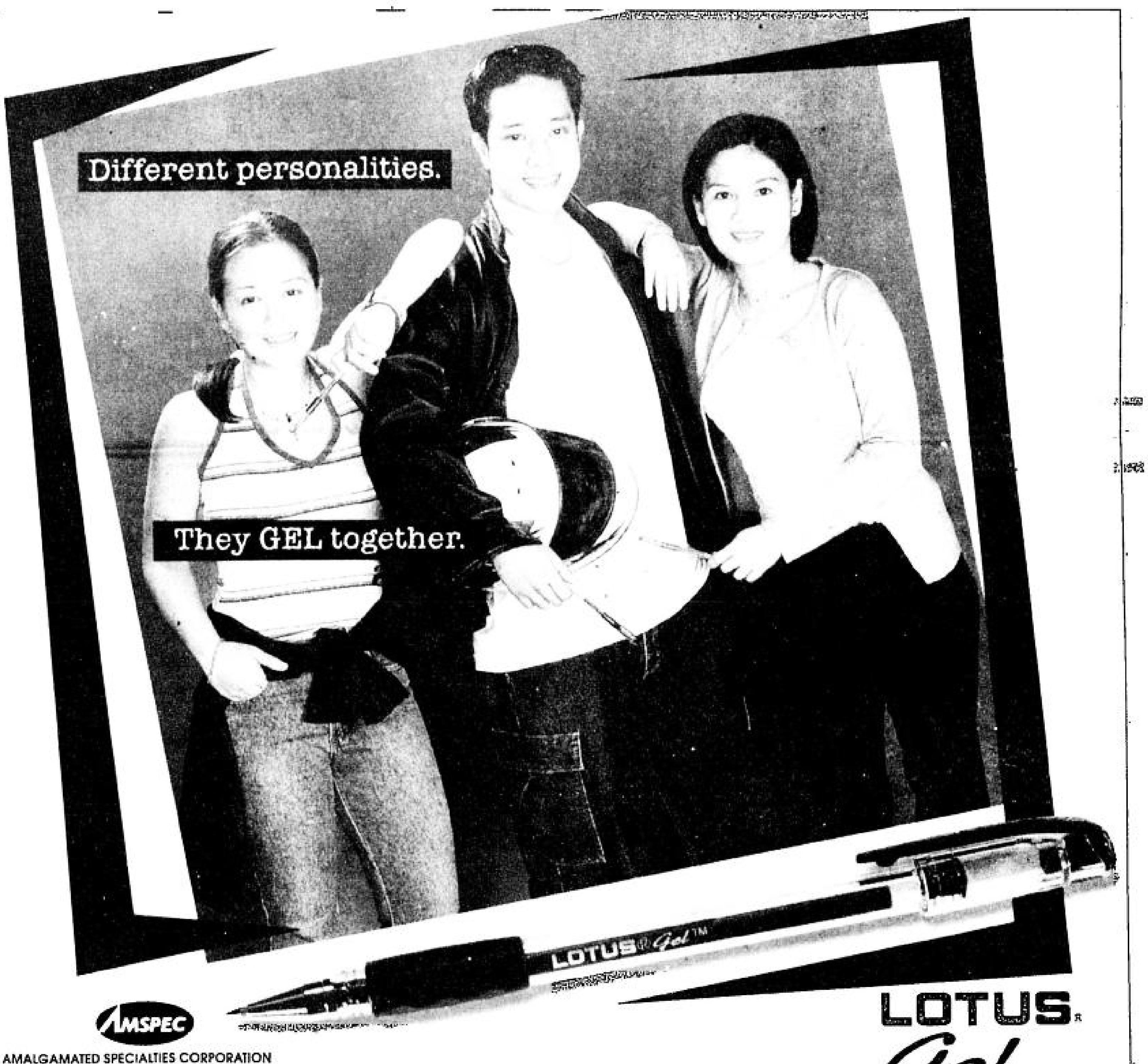

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The right steps to the right private school

EDUCATION and upbringing are two of the most important factors shaping the future of youngsters. The latter parents can have full control of, as almost certainly parents can take full responsibility in the upbringing of their children.

Education, however, is another thing. Once parents let go of their children and let them inside the classroom, everything's up to the school, its system and its teachers.

So, how can parents ease their worries on the right private school their child can learn and grow best as a person in? Robert Kennedy from about.com gives us helpful tips.

First steps

Involve your child in the choice of a school right from the beginning. If it's college, begin discussing boarding schools. If the house is simply too far away from the preferred school, then it's time to convince the youngster of the advantages of learning and living in the same place. All the child's friends and activities would be right there. The boarder would "have a life".

Private schools are noted for their small class sizes and low student-to-teacher ratios. Faculty turnover is generally rather low, lending stability and continuity to the educational process. Your child will receive the personal guidance and mentoring he or she so richly deserves. Excellence is encouraged. Good study habits and discipline are the rule, not the exception.

> Private schools offer every kind of enrichment: from study programs abroad to Chinese language and literature. Libraries and facilities for art, music, and drama are usually lavishly equipped and staffed with specialist teachers

The sports facilities at most private schools are simply amazing. Opportunities abound for your budding athlete to engage in some serious competition at the varsity level if he so chooses. A wide variety of intramural sports means that there is something for every interest. Sports is almost always "compulsory" at private schools, since practically every school adheres to the philosophy *of mens in sano corpore* or a healthy mind in a healthy body. This ensures that even the most "delicate" child will find a congenial athletic endeavor.

Private schools offer every kind of enrichment: from study programs abroad to Chinese language and literature. Libraries and facilities for art, music, and drama are usually lavishly equipped and staffed with specialist teachers. Private schools offer the stimuli a child needs to discover himself and to achieve his full potential.

Once you have discussed academics, sports programs and enrichment with your child, and have reached the necessary consensus, the next step is to match your needs with the right school.

What kind?

Once you have reached a clear understanding with your child about academics, sports and the enrichment which private school education offers in general, we can move on to the the other important questions: is a small or large school preferable? Should it be single-sex or co-educational?

Private schools can range in size from less than one hundred students to over one thousand. So it is vital that you assess your child's social skills very carefully or you will have one very unhappy puppy!

In other words, is your child somewhat shy or does he or she make friends easily? Will he be comfortable at a large school or is the more family-like atmosphere of a small school preferable? Regarding size, be assured that most private boarding schools have some kind of dormitory arrangement which encourages the kind of close bonding usually found in a family. So, in reality, a large school can very well create the feeling of family which is so beneficial to a child's happiness.

Many parents and educators feel that children benefit from the minimal distractions offered by a single-sex school setting. Others feel just as strongly that a co-educational school offers young people a valuable social laboratory in which to practice the skills so necessary in today's politically correct world. Again you have to know your child and his needs.

Also, let's be very clear about the supervision aspect of private schools: it is strict. Rules are generally rigidly enforced, and no one has the slightest compunction about dismissing a student for a major infraction thereof. Ask around and you will find countless examples of seniors who decided to push the envelope just a bit too far a few weeks prior to graduation. They were made history in a flash.

In either kind of school the administration tries very hard to ensure a well-balanced social life with "weekends," dances, and other social events. Most single-sex schools will have some sort of long-standing arrangement with a sister or brother school close by, so that your child will have the opportunity to socialize with members of the opposite sex regularly.

Two other points to consider are tuition and transportation. Tuition for day students is a lot lower than tuition for boarders. As well, if transportation from some distant place is an issue, you have to consider that carefully both from the logistics and the cost point of view.

Your personal religious requirements are the key to this choice. The more zealous denominational schools will be very forthright in letting you know that all students are expected to practice the faith embraced by that school. Most denominational schools merely require students to "attend" chapel, but will make only a minimal effort to proselytize. Non-denominational schools make no claim to adhere to one particular faith, but are, as a rule, Christian in their basic religious persuasion. In sum, then, if you insist on bringing your child up with a solid grounding in your faith, then factor this requirement into the choice equation.

Gathering info

Now we get practical. We are going to make a list of schools which we think will fill the bill. Then we are going to order promotional materials from each school. So let's get going.

Obtaining information about private schools is easy. Many of them have their own Web sites. The others can be found listed in a variety of association and commercial directories. Visit these schools virtually.

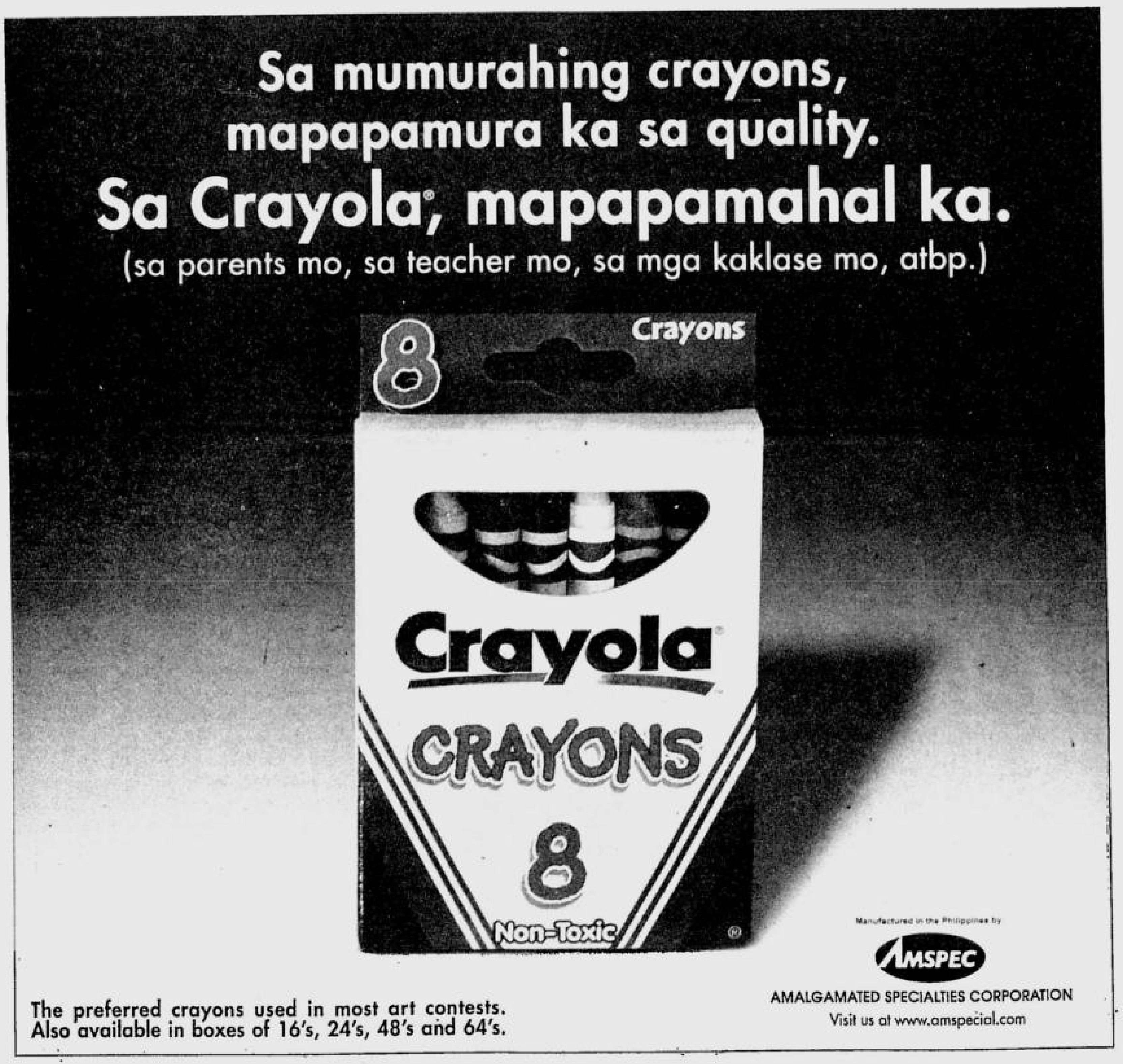
How many schools should you have on your list? That really depends on your wishes and needs. Three to five is probably the maximum number which you can seriously research and conveniently visit. If you had a family member attend a private school, you probably will want to include it on your list, if only to appease the relative. Other than that consideration, choose schools which offer the courses, the facilities, the location, and the nurturing which you want your child to have. Using these criteria, you will probably come up with about seven to nine schools which meet the broad parameters.

The next step is to order the Admissions Package. This will usually include a catalog and an application form. Phone the Admissions Office. Talk to one of the Admissions Officers. Ask lots of questions about things like student-teacher ratios, special programs, living arrangements, sports—in short anything which concerns you and your decision about that school. Alternatively you can order the admissions package via e-mail. While e-mail is fast and anonymous, you won't have the voice contact which is such a useful way to gauge what kind of school it is.

Many schools will send you a video giving you a tour of the school. This is an excellent way of getting the feel for a school. Even though it is obviously a "perfect" view of everything the school wants you to see, it will give you a good idea of the school community and its setting.

One caveat, and it is just a common-sense bit of advice: be sure that at least one school on your short list is a "safe" school. Some schools are very competitive, and depending on the applicant pool that year, might not have a place for your child. To avoid disappointment, then, find out what percentage of applicants is typically accepted.

THE RIGHT/ G6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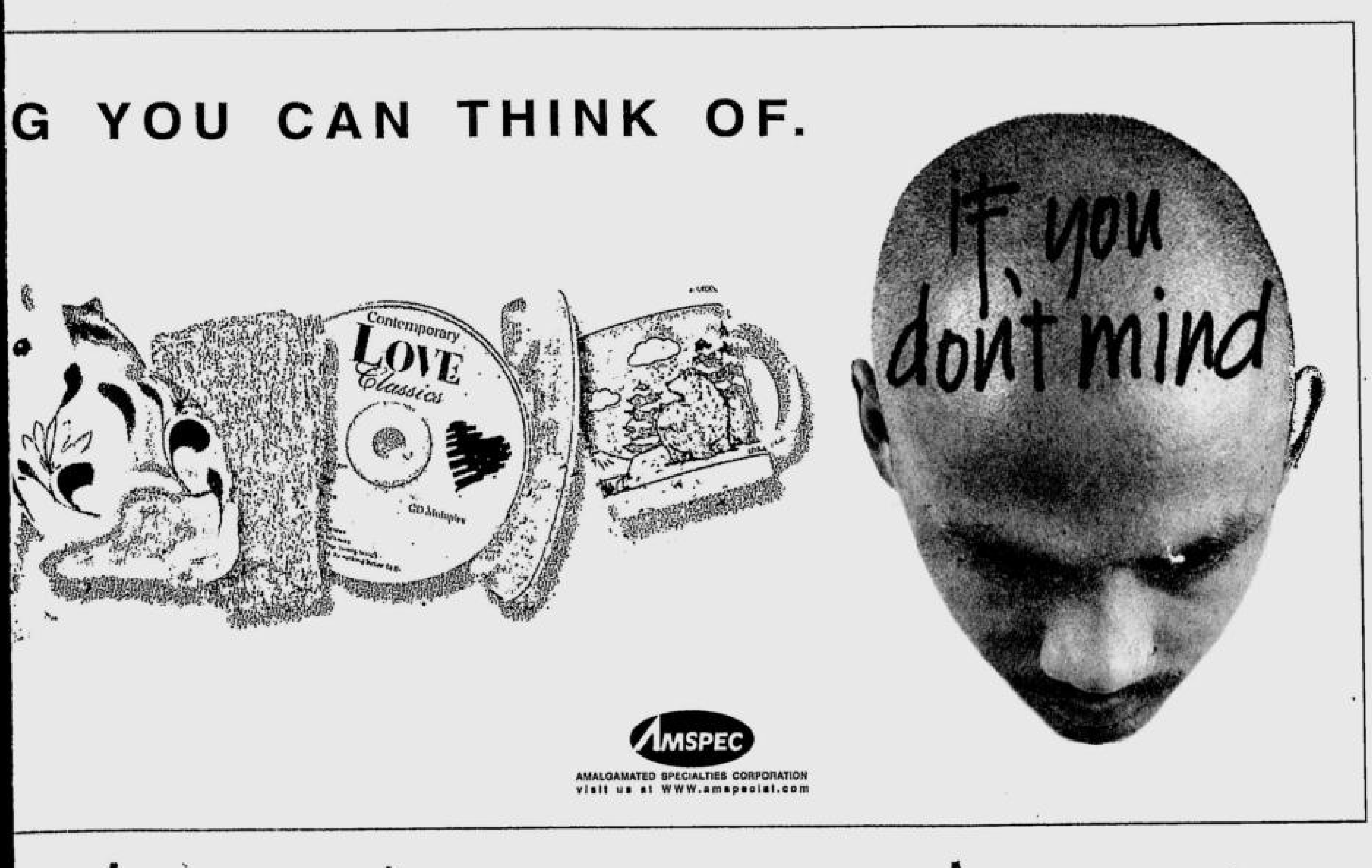
Mathematics Trainer's Guild Phils. (MTG) president Simon L. Chua (third from left) recently signed a sponsorship agreement with C. Antonette R. Severino (second from left) product manager of Amalgamated Specialties Corporation (Amspec) for Amspec to be one of the major sponsors of an international math contest, the Invitational World Youth Mathematics Inter-City Competition which will be held at the Development Academy of the Philippines in Tagaytay City from June 8 to 11. The Philippines will be host to 25 foreign teams from 14 countries and will field in 20 local teams. Also in photo are (from left) Mally Chua and Bienvenida B. Cuesico, MTG parent organizers.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Li'l Hands at 3

THE Li'l Hands Club held its third anniversary in Robinsons Galleria, Ortigas. A total of 450 kids and adults attended the fun day. Both children and adults joined the parlor games, contests, and free workshop. Everybody went home with gifts, and most especially with fun learning on arts and crafts. Join us again on June 2 at the Tagalog Region, Nayong Pilipino. Registration starts as early as 7 a.m. Call us now for free workshops on storytelling, bamboo art collage, glass painting, and macrame craft. Free admissions to all Li'l Hands Club members. For details call 850-4046, 842-1515, or e-mail club@lilhands.com. Be prepared for more surprises!

Know all about the art, science and business of cooking

BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

FOR someone who loves cooking, but those classes on television aren't enough, there's one school that may just be the answer to your culinary passion. The Center for Culinary Arts Manila, located in Katipunan avenue, Quezon City (Cravings Centre fronting Ateneo), can offer you a very rewarding and fullfilling future in the food service industry.

CCA Manila boasts of a faculty composed of professional chefs and instructors trained in the most reputable culinary institutions abroad. The school is a partner of the Educational Foundation of the National Restaurant Association of the United States, it is also an affiliate of the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, one of Canada's foremost institutes of technology. Because of this partnership, the school's graduates earn a culinary degree that is recognized abroad and are assured of better opportunities for a successful career. "We are very proud of our graduates who are either running their own food establishments now or manning kitchens in some of the finest hotels here and abroad," reveals Ma. Christina Aquino, CCA Manila School Directress.

CCA Manila offers two extensive programs: A diploma in culinary arts and technology management and a certificate in baking and pastry arts. The first is a two-year program designed to develop students' culinary skills and competencies in planning, operation, and supervision of an institutional and commercial kitchen. It covers areas on food and beverage production, safety and sanitation, cuisine of the world—from Asian to European, from American to French. There are also courses in human and material resources management, sales and marketing, restaurant service, nutrition, butchery and related fields that aim to provide the students with a solid foundation in the principles, procedures and techniques in culinary arts and technology management.

The second is a one-year program designed to provide students with strong foundation on the principles and technique in baking. Emphasis is in providing extensive hands-on laboratory experience as well as externship training for a thorough mastery on procedures and technique. The course prepares the students for bakeshop and bakery operation.

"Starting August we will be accepting applicants for our intensive training in bread baking which is a separate module. Now, students have the option not to take the whole program—no management courses but we will require them to pass competency exams. Early next year we will introduce the intensive training in pastry arts," explains Aquino.

CCA Manila provides its students state-of-the-art school facilities. It has eight kitchens, spacious lecture rooms and an information resource center that has all the references pertaining to the culinary field. The school also boasts of high-tech equipment to adequately facilitate laboratory classes.

Students of CCA Manila come from three major groups: fresh high school graduates who consider culinary arts as another option from a four-year course, college shifters who realize their interest doesn't lie in their present course, and finally college graduates who require further specialized training or those who are already working professionally and are planning a career shift.

"From this mixed group, you now have a class structure composed of different age levels. It's a learning experience for these students since they have to work with somebody younger or older which is how a real working kitchen atmosphere feels like—you have learn how to adjust with different people," informs Aquino.

Aside from these regular courses, CCA Manila also offers a continuing education program that offers weekend courses specializing in various topics about culinary arts, baking and pastry arts as well as professional food service management.

The school takes in students four times a year: June, August, October and January.

Managed by the Cravings Group of Companies, CCA Manila didn't start out as a culinary institution right away. In 1992, Cravings introduced Young's Chef Summer program that taught basic cooking lessons for kids. Soon that idea gave its president Susana Guerrero an idea to put up a culinary school that would not only offer short courses but academic programs as well. She then invited a team of experts from Nait of Canada as well as from the University of the Philippines that laid the foundation of the school's curriculum. Finally, on Nov. 27, 1998, CCA Manila was established and officially became the first culinary institution in the Philippines.

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The right steps . . .

(From page G5)

When you and your child have thoroughly reviewed all the materials, eliminate the schools which don't meet your needs. You should end up with a short list of three to five schools. There are no hard and fast rules in this process. Be flexible. If you end up with only two schools which meet your needs, that's fine. If the list includes half a dozen, that's fine too — more work, but quite fine!

The interview

Parents: this little essay is aimed at your children, so please use it as a discussion point with them or, better yet, have them read it themselves.

Are you scared? Don't worry! That's perfectly normal. We all get a bit on edge when we are confronted with unfamiliar situations. The best strategy is to think positive, but above all, think! In other words, if the interviewer asks you your opinion on world hunger, don't panic! Ponder the question for a few seconds, then speak a few well-chosen words. Be careful not to fill in the silences with "like" or "umh" or other mannerisms. The interviewer is merely trying to see how quickly you can think on your feet! Take your time and express yourself clearly.

Should you ask questions? You bet! When you have finished delivering your thoughts on world hunger, deftly return the serve by asking about the weekends or your favorite sport or cultural activity. This lets the interviewer know important information about you. It helps the school decide whether or not you will fit in.

Look the interviewer in the eye. Maintaining eye contact isn't easy, but it is a strong indication of poise and confidence—qualities that are always appealing. Should you be aggressive? Make provocative statements? I wouldn't advise it, any more than I would advise wearing outrageous clothes It's just not appropriate. What if you really don't like the school? Be polite and find something positive to say. Be gracious in your responses.

Tips: Don't chew gum. Keep a list of your questions handy. (Put them on a three by five card beforehand.) Be truthful. Shake hands firmly and look the other person in the eye Relax and be yourself.

When the ordeal is over, compare notes with your parents. Record any observations for your records. Make a note of anything that was truly outstanding. Note anything that was a negative.

Finally, when you get back home, do the socially correct thing: write a thank you note to the person who interviewed you.

There. That wasn't so bad, was it? The second interview will be a breeze. Guaranteed!

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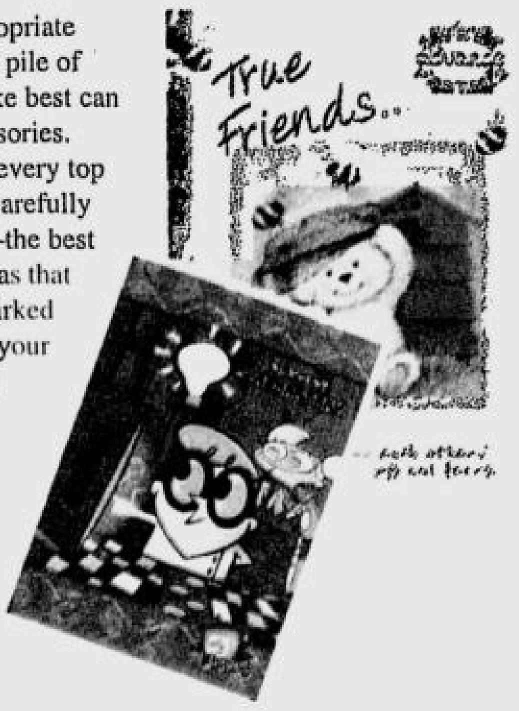
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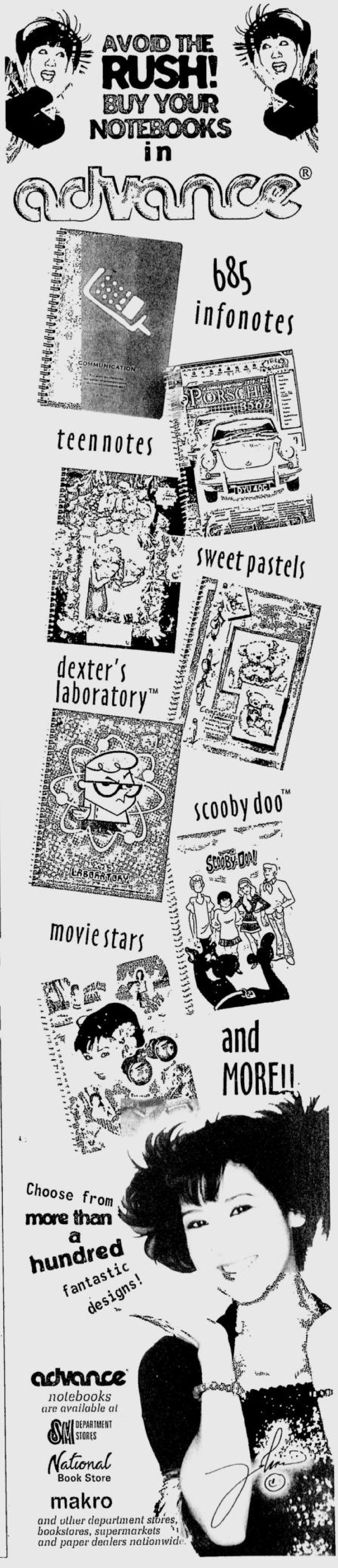

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Casio KLK School Project: teaching music the new way

MUSIC has become an integral part of man's existence and progress. In fact, music has matured into several forms to answer these basic needs—education, entertainment and enjoyment.

Casio, one of the world's leaders in technology, has contributed greatly to the evolution of music. From its first Casiotone—the VL tone; then came the high technology keyboards, to the world's first keylighting keyboard. True enough, Casio electronic musical instruments is an embodiment of the evolution of music.

Solid to its commitment in bringing its products and services to the public, Casio EMI introduces the KLK School Project, which aims to promote musical creativity amongst students in the primary and intermediate levels.

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Not only that, the KLK Kit was designed to boost businesses amongst piano and keyboard tutors. They can now amplify their time and earnings using the latest innovation from Casio.

Casio KLK School Project is expected to duplicate its success in other countries like Poland and China here in the country,

Miriam entrance exams today

THE Miriam College Graduate School holds entrance exams from 8 a.m. till 12 nn today at the Philippine Eagle Room of the Caritas Building in Miriam College. For inquiries call Vivian, Sharon or Cathy at the graduate school office at 426-0172 or 927-2421 loc. 271.

The curricular offerings of the Miriam College Graduate School are Ph.D. in environmental studies, Ph.D. in environmental education, Ph.D. in child and family studies, Master of Science in environment studies, Master of Arts in childhood education, Master of Arts in education (major in environmental education), Master of Arts in environmental management, Master of Arts in family psychology and education, Master of Arts in human resource and values development, Master in measurement and evaluation, certificate in professional teaching (18 units) and certificate in music education.

The Graduate School offers scholarships—like academic scholarships, with free tuition and miscellaneous fees for environmental programs; and financial aid, or free tuition (full and partial).

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SATURDAY, MAY 26, 2001 ✧ 16 PAGES ✧ VOLUME 5, NUMBER 32

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● A Day for Kites	Page 6
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Mountain, Music, Magic!

Incredible young musicians cast a spell on all who heard them...

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO

...INCLUDING, we're almost sure of it, Maria Makiling. The concert during the last day of the Young Musicians Special Summer Camp held at Mt. Makiling was such an amazing musical treat, it felt sometimes like the whole mountain was listening.

Beginning on April 23, 39 young musicians, 11-17 years old, joined this music camp and workshop—the first of its kind to be held in the country. Most of the campers, who came from all over the Philippines, were participants of the National Music Competition for Young Artists (NAMCYA) from 1995 to 2000. Folks at the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, in cooperation with St. Scholastica's College, Manila, decided to organize this three-week camp to give the kids more intensive topnotch music training. Their teachers were some of the best music professors in the country, including National Artist for Music Andrea Veneracion.

During the concert held on May 10 at the National Arts Center Theater in Mt. Makiling, the kids' families finally got to see how their children's hard work paid off.

Moody Maria

Hours before the concert, though, Maria Makiling, the diwata said to be sleeping within the mountain, appeared to be in a very bad mood. The sky was dark and the rain would not stop. Wind blew in every direction and the peak of Makiling hid itself grouchily behind heavy clouds.

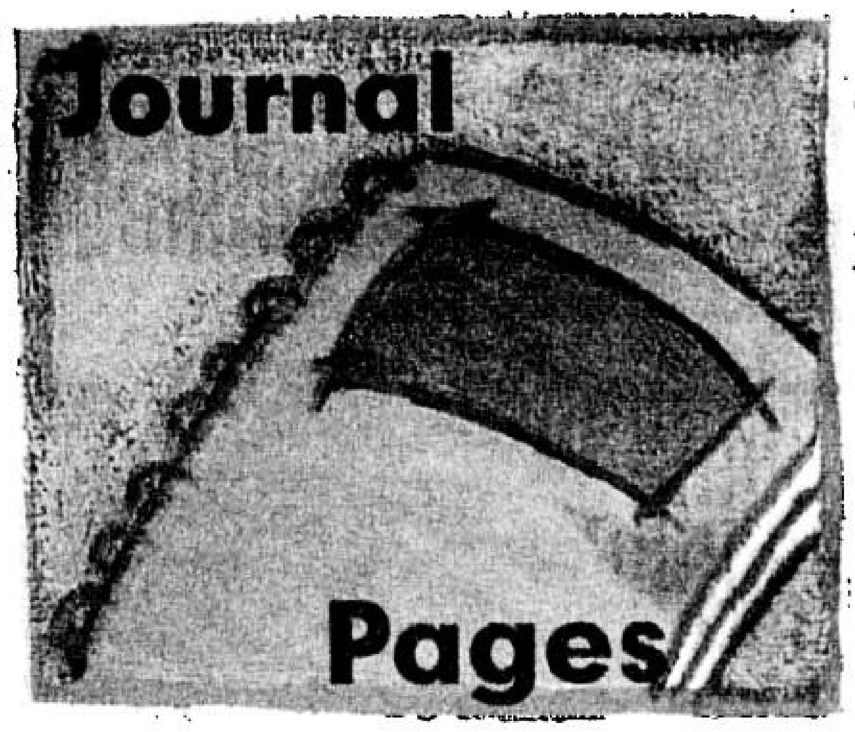
Yet even with the rain pouring angrily, the voices of the 13 vocalists who sang the National Anthem at the beginning of the program, rose clear above it all. "Pambansang Awit *pa lang, maganda na,*" one audience member remarked admiringly.

What followed was three hours of music that was right up there with the best we've ever heard.

Pianists' spider-like fingers flew over the keys, as violinists seemed to soothe even the wind with their playing. A frisky

Mountain/p.10

SOARING EAGLE. A boy flies his white eagle kite and it's shadow follows close behind. Did you catch the annual "Bears in Flight" kite contest on May 13 at the Rizal Park? If you didn't, you can still feast your eyes on "A Day for Kites," a photo essay by CJ Bunoan on Page 6.



I love singing

BY NICOLLE GUSTILLO, 11, ASSUMPTION COLLEGE, SAN LORENZO, MAKATI

I READ Cristina Cayabyab's article, "Me and My Music" (JI, April 28, 2001). I also wanted to share my story about my music.

I loved music ever since I was little. I loved singing songs from "Aladdin," like "A Whole New World." My mom told me that "Aladdin" was the first movie I watched in the cinemas. She also said that the only part I wanted to watch was when Aladdin and Jasmin sang "A Whole New World."

When I was 8 years old, my mom decided to enrol me at the Yamaha School of Music for piano lessons. Incidentally, my older brother and sister also learned how to play the piano when they were in grade school. I studied in Yamaha for a year.

Then I enrolled at the Center for Pop Music Philippines. I studied pop singing there for more than a year. Our voice coaches encouraged us to be comfortable with singing in front of an audience by letting us sing in mall concerts and small concerts in auditoriums. Last year, I also joined our church choir. I'm an alto (the lower female voice).

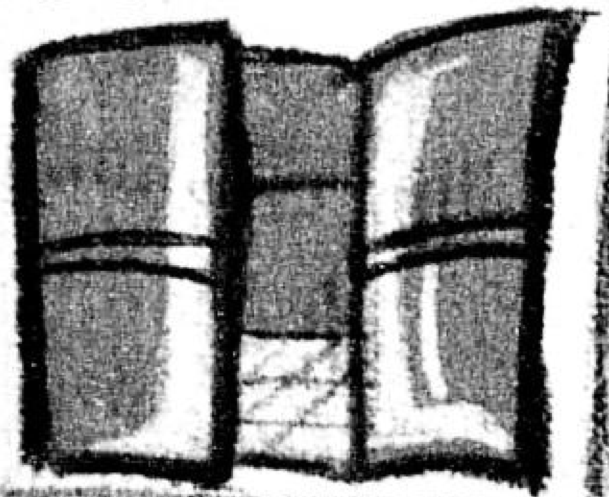
I want to become a stage actress when I grow up. I really like acting and singing on stage. I listen to Lea Salonga (I have a CD of "Miss Saigon" and I watched it when it was showed at the CCP), Christina Aguilera, and Mariah Carey. I really like actresses like Julia Roberts, Catherine Zeta-Jones, and Sarah Michelle Gellar.

This summer, I joined the Trumpets Playshop at the Alabang Town Center. It was lots of fun. I'm looking forward to our class play in June. And for all the singing lessons I've had, I've learned that you should never give up anything you do because if you do, you'll never reach your goal in life.

Sound Familiar?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



In defense of Poveda teachers

DEAR Editor,

This is regarding Macie Mendigo's essay which appeared on JI on March 24 ("Me and My Dyslexia"). I found a sentence where she compared teachers from WorldLab to teachers in Poveda. The sentence said, "the teachers were great, unlike in Poveda."

I understand her hardship in trying to cope with the subjects in Poveda. Despite that, I still think that she has no right to compare Povedan mentors with her other teachers. Many of my teachers are strict because they want us to grow up the right way. They scold us because they want to correct our wrongdoings. They don't punish us because they want to embarrass or humiliate us in front of our class. The rules they implement are for our own good.—**DENISE MARINO**, 12, Poveda Learning Center

New Harry Potter books

J.K. ROWLING has written two new books connected to Harry Potter, "Quidditch Through the Ages" and "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them." Before anyone says anything about these being satanic too, think about this: when people buy the two books, the proceeds will go to charity.—**KLARA ISKRA M. AÑONUEVO**, 15, Quezon City

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OUT THERE

By Margaux Ortiz

Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Contests

DIVE WITH A DUGONG. Animal Planet, in an effort to raise awareness about one of the most endangered species in the world, will be running an on-air contest to educate the viewers about these gentle sea mammals. The lucky winner will be able to dive and come face-to-face with a dugong on June 9, 2001 at Underwater World, Sentosa. Tune in to Animal Planet for details. Viewers can send in their answers to dive_ dugong@discovery.com.

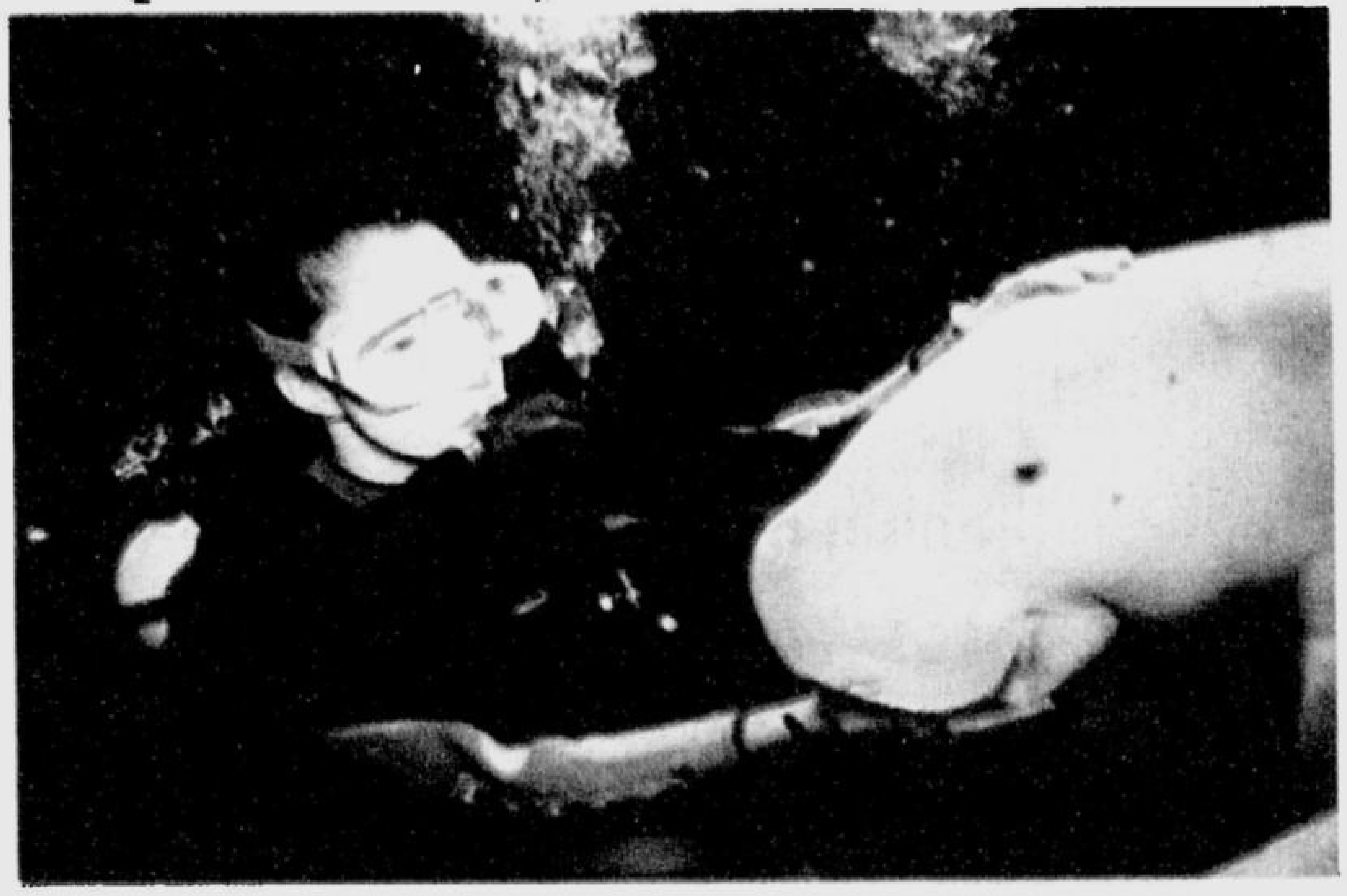
Workshops

FUN AT THE HELLO KITTY CAFÉ. Create your own Hello Kitty bags, greeting cards, picture frames, pencil cases, and even flower pots at the Hello Kitty Café 3rd floor of SM Megamall, Building B from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Workshops are held everyday for the summer and only on Saturdays and Sundays for the rest of the year. For inquiries call 726-9076 local 721 or visit the SM Megamall Hello Kitty Café right next to Gift Gate.

Announcement

BE A BOOK AUTHOR. Adarna House is calling on all budding and professional writers to submit their stories for its next batch of storybooks. Include a short write-up about yourself. Submit your stuff to the Product Development Officer, Adarna House, 73-A Scout Limbaga St., Quezon City. For more details, please call 372-3548 or 49 or e-mail adarnahouse@adarna.com.ph.

Out/p.5



UP CLOSE. Former MTV-Asia VJ Nadya Hutagalung joins Animal Planet to raise awareness about the conservation of dugongs.

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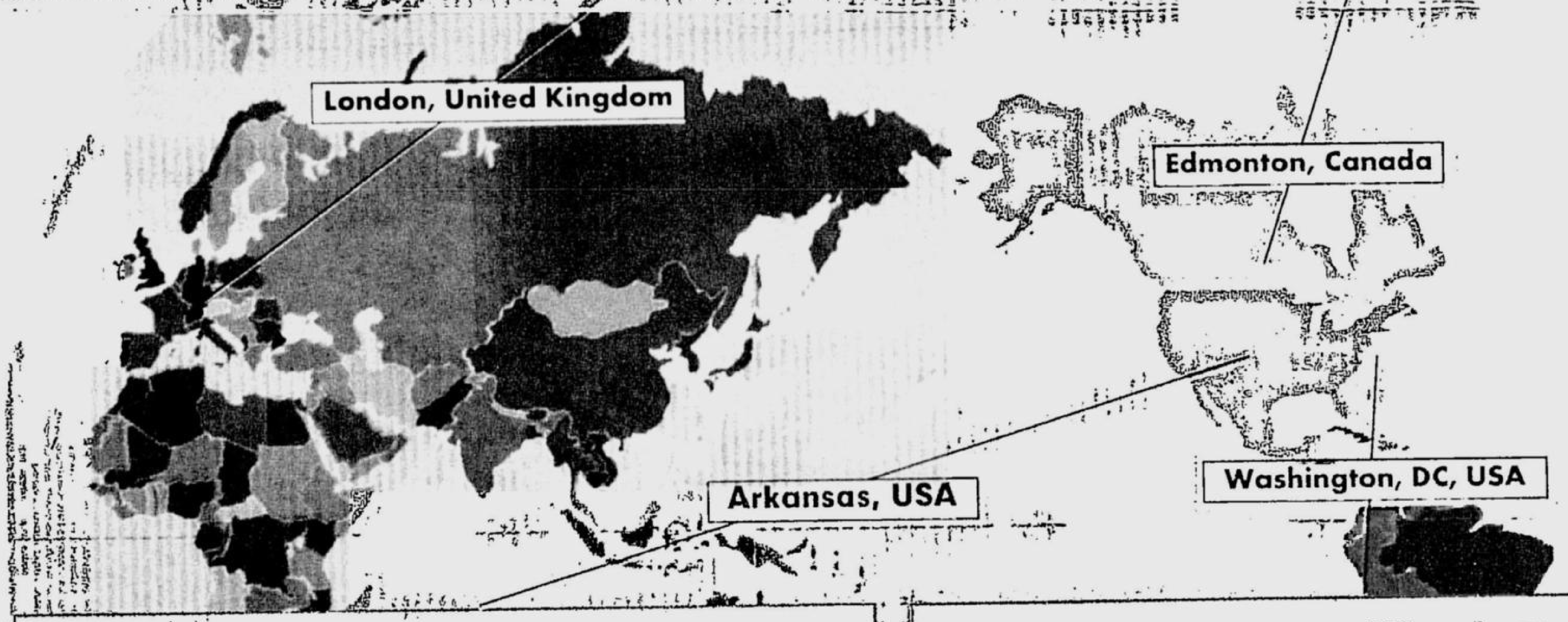
WORLD SCOPE

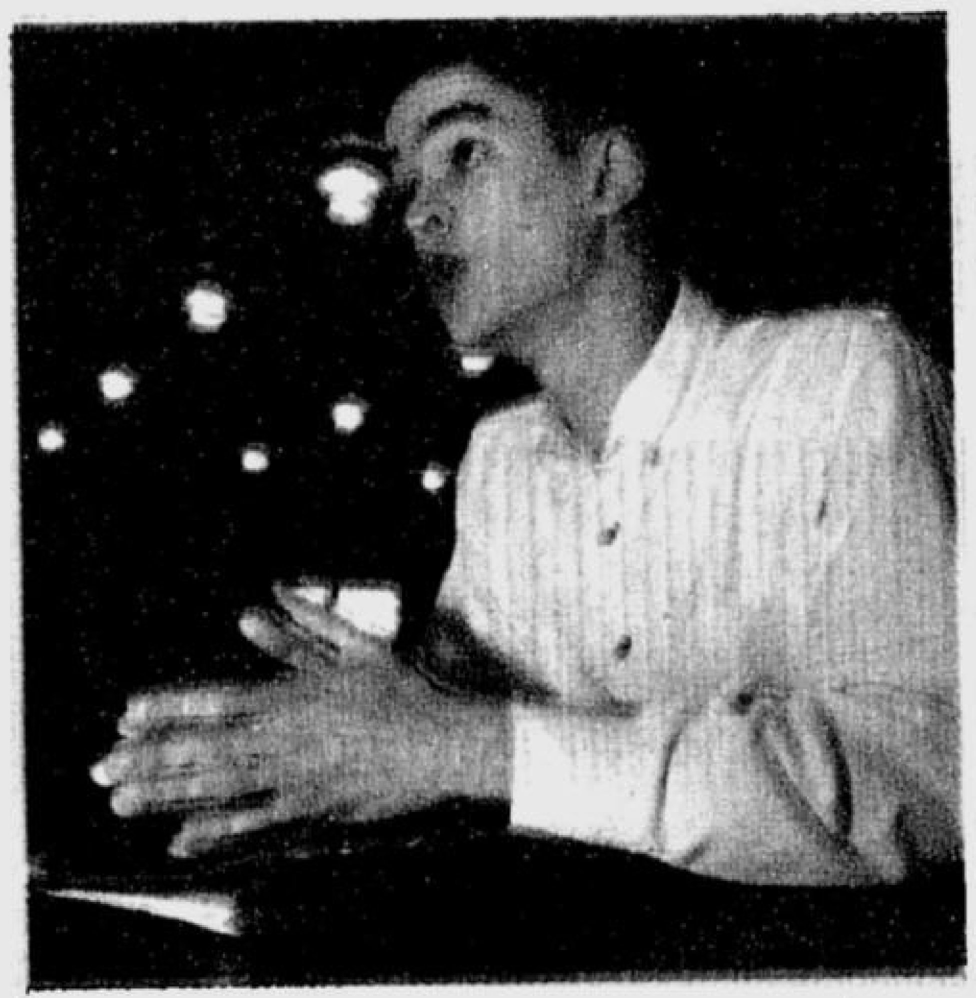
Webber, the busker

CLASSICAL cellist Julian Lloyd Webber performs on the platform at Westminster station on London's Jubilee Line, shortly after the rush hour. He was the first official busker— a musician who performs for spare change in London's underground network. London Underground gave Webber the unusual platform, after a change in a by-law which allows buskers to perform without fear of being moved on, provided they have permission. ***AP***

Any moment now...

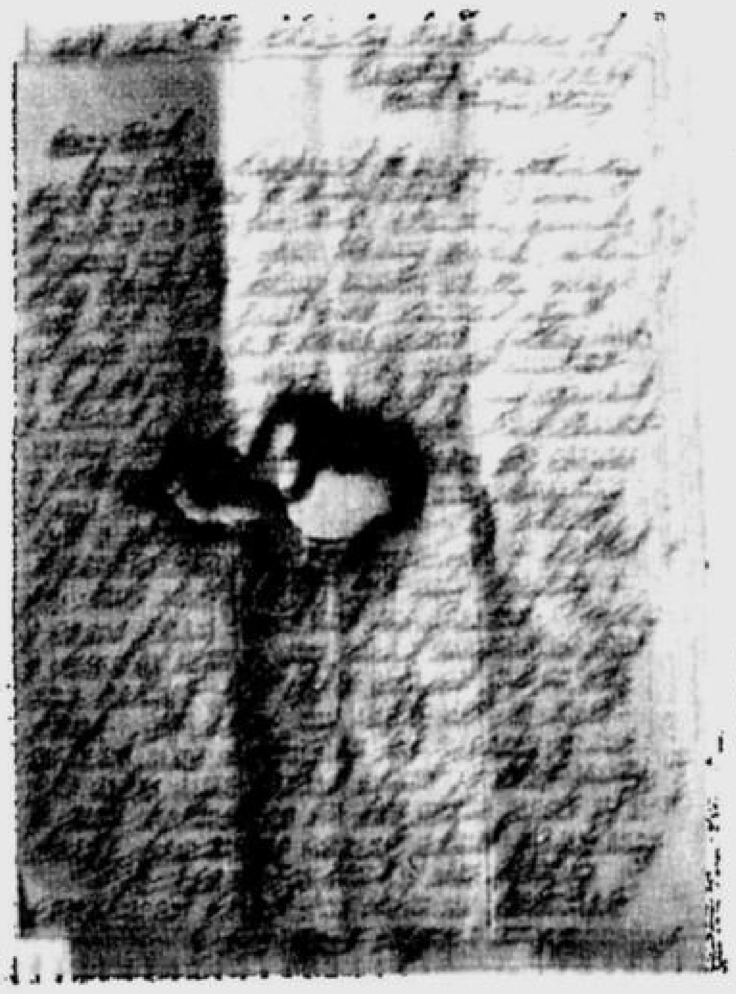
ADAM Caulfield, 4, waits for his cue during a cello group recital at his town's city hall. The program was part of the festivities to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the solidarity movement in Poland. ***AP***





Some kind of genius

JOHN Carter, 19, talks to reporters about his college career at the University of Arkansas. Carter, who started college at age 10, received a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Arkansas at commencement two weeks ago. ***AP***

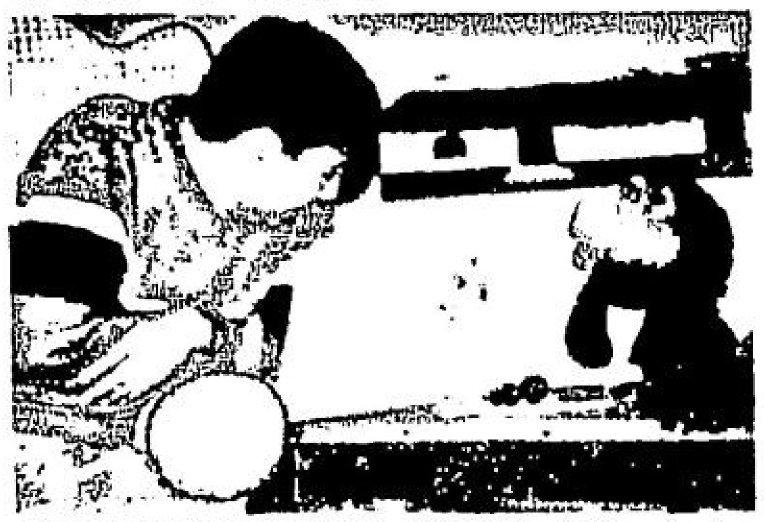


War letters

THIS letter by World War II Army Pvt. John P. McGrath, photographed on May 8, 2001, was hit by a bullet while in his backpack during action near Anzio, Italy, in April, 1944. This and hundreds of other war letters were collected by Andrew Carroll and will appear in his new book, "War Letters." ***AP***

Out There

(from page 3)



ENGLISH MADE EASY. ***Tito*** **Luis talks to Porfirio (right) and a cat in "Epol Apple."**

On TV

"EPOL/APPLE'S" NEW SEASON. Join wacky "teacher" *Tito* Luis, a witty hornbill named Porfirio and the rest of the "Epol/Apple" gang in learning the English language with a Pinoy twist starting June 5 on ABS-CBN's Channel 2! "Epol/Apple" will be shown on Tuesdays with replays Thurdays, from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m.

Stuff

BACK-TO-SCHOOL CATALOGUE. National Book Store helps ease those school shopping hassles with the "Back-to-School, Back to National Book Store Catalogue." The NBS catalogue features a wide range of products from classic to reference books, textbooks, paper supplies, arts and technical materials, and other school accessories and equipment. The catalogues are free and available at all National Book Store branches nationwide. To order an item from the catalogue, just call 533-8808 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Customers may order products until June 30.

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Potter Update!

INVITATION FROM HOGWARTS! Er, not really, heheh. Warner Brothers offers a sneak peek of the "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" the movie. There will be limited teaser previews in cinemas. Check out the schedules and don't miss this chance: May 30, Robinson's Place and June 5 at SM City Manila between 7 and 7:15 p.m.

HARRY IN THE FLESH. Make way for Hogwarts' most famous student in selected cinemas in Metro Manila.

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A Day for Kites

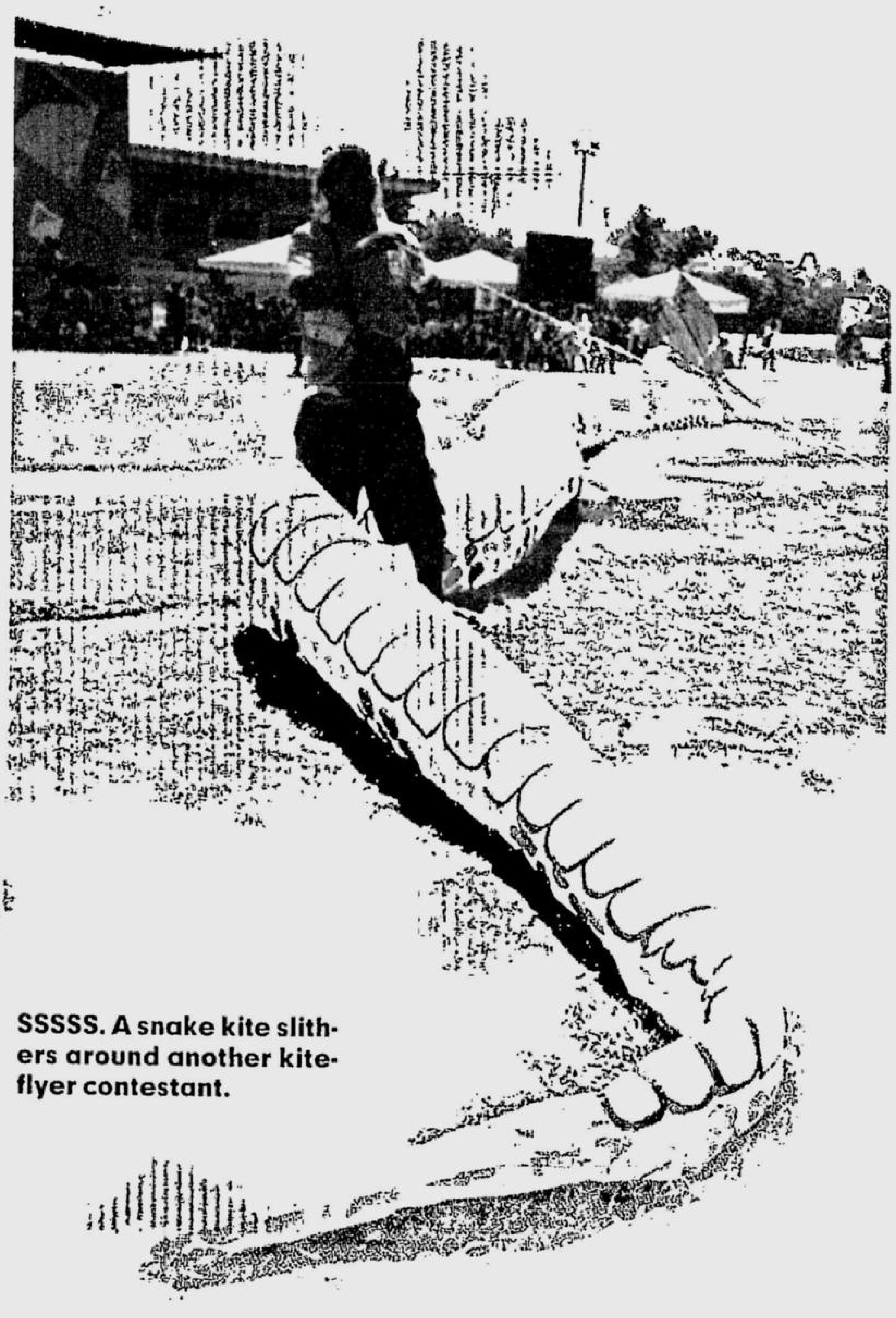
A PHOTO ESSAY BY CJ BUNOAN

IT FLIES! A man holds on to his creation: the superbike kite.

WOW! A family admires a butterfly kite.

WHAT IS THAT? It's the the "mukhang siyokoy" kite.

SMILE! An onlooker tries to take a picture of the kites while two kids squint and stare.



SSSSS. A snake kite slithers around another kite-flyer contestant.

A Trip to Kalinga

BY TAO NONO VILLAREAL AVES

MY CHRISTMAS vacation was really fun. Know why? I'll tell you about it. See, my Mama, Grace Nono Aves, was going to meet with a Kalinga shaman and she decided to take me along with her. A shaman by the way, is a kind of healer or medicine woman. Kalinga on the other hand is an ethno-linguistic group inhabiting the southern part of Kalinga-Apayao province in northern Luzon. My Mama was going to do it for her graduate school work at the University of the Philippines and also for her own networking with indigenous wisdom keepers. At first I thought, *a trip to the boring mountain? She has got to be kidding!* But when she told me that we could take Xiomara along too, I quickly said yes. (Xiomara or Xiowy by the way is my friend from school. She recently transferred to St. Joseph in San Mateo.) We were going to leave the next day.

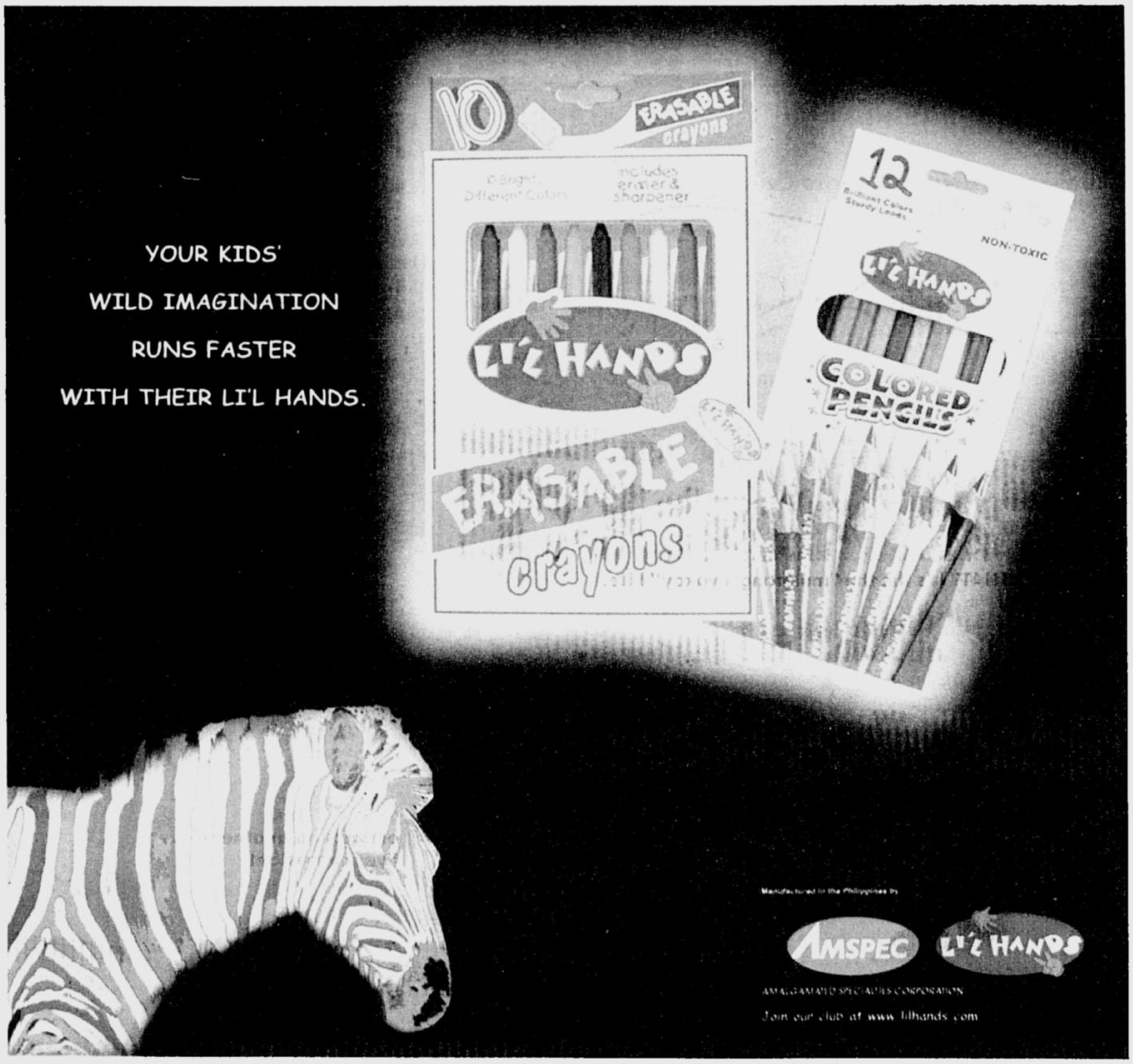
Twenty-sixth of December, 10 p.m. We were at the Victory bus terminal in Kamias, Quezon City. We waited for like three hours. And then

.Tuguegarao passengers, please take your seats at Bus 1626. My mama, Xiowy and I hurried to our bus and looked for our seats. We were somewhere at the back, but that didn't matter. All we knew was that on the 26th of December 2000, at 2200 hours, began the adventure that we would not soon forget.

Dec. 27, 11 a.m. After 13 hours in the bus and backs hurting from sitting up the whole night and morning, we arrived at Tuguegarao, the capital of Cagayan province. We took a tricycle to the Tabuk jeep terminal. Tabuk by the way is the capital of Kalinga Apayao. On our way to the terminal, we passed a fully packed jeep to Tabuk which accommodated us, though we had to sit at the rear end of the vehicle on a makeshift wooden plank. After an hour's ride at around 1:30 p.m., we arrived at Tabuk. We asked around how we could get to Barangay Balenciagao in the municipality of Pasi, Kalinga. Those we asked told us that we couldn't get there anymore because there weren't anymore jeeps left to take us. But persistent asking finally led us to the last trip that would take us to Balenciagao. The only part didn't like about the ride was that it

A Trip/p.11

(Above) TAO and Xiowy enjoying their adventure in Kalinga. (Right) A TREK to the rocky road.



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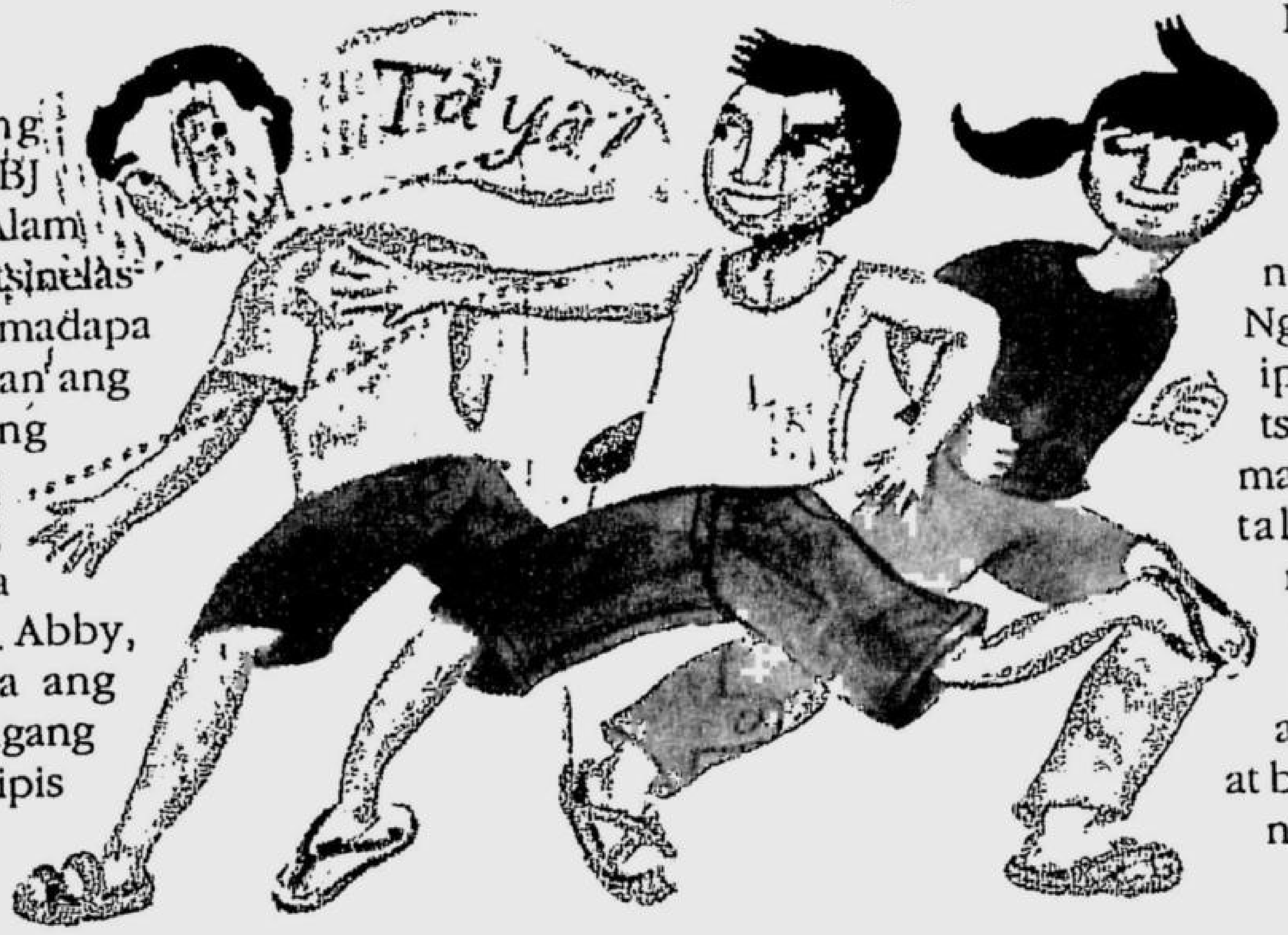
FOR or By KIDS

Ang Upod Kong Tsinelas

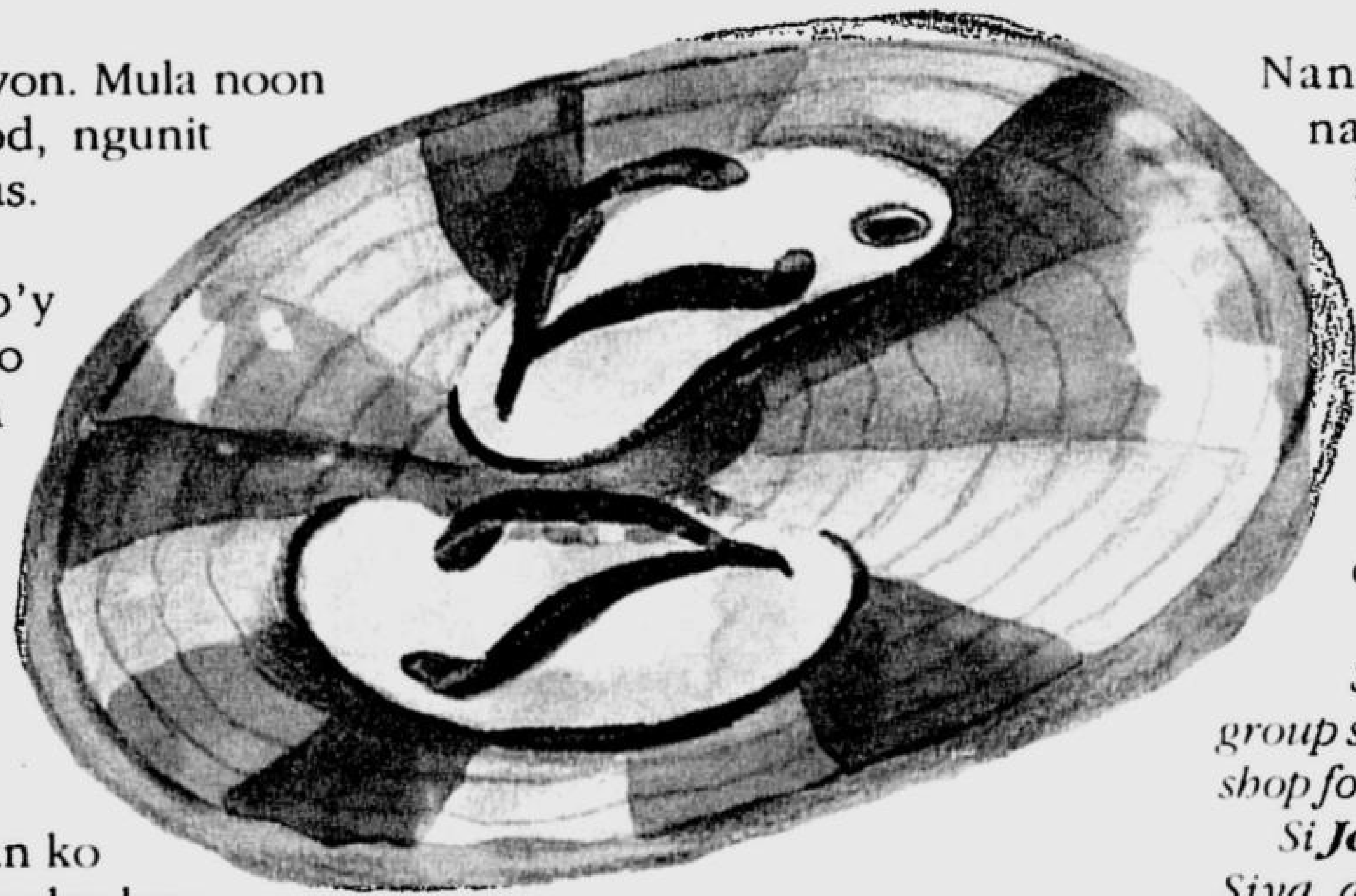
KUWENTO NI GENARO R. GOJO CRUZ
GUHIT NI JOANNE DE LEON

UPOD na ang aking tsinelas ngunit hindi pa ako nagpapabili ng kapalit kay Nanay. Kapag naglalakad nga ako, nararamdaman ko na ang maliliit na bato sa lupa. Ngunit kahit ganito ang aking tsinelas, wala akong balak magpabili ng bago kay Nanay. Pwede pa namang pagtiyagaan at isa pa, suwerte sa akin ang upod kong tsinelas.

Sa tuwing maglalaro kami ng habulan nina Abby, Zalman at BJ madali ko silang abutan at tayain. Alam kong tinulungan ako ng upod kong tsinelas na makatakbo ng matulin at hindi madapa o magalusan. At kapag taguan naman ang aming laro, kapag ako ang unang naging taya, pinupulsuhan ko ang aking tsinelas at kaagad niyang ihahakbang ang aking mga paa patungo sa pinagtataguan nina Abby, Zalman at BJ. At patutulinin niya ang aking hakbang pabalik sa base. Talagang suwerte sa akin ang upod at manipis kong tsinelas kaya't wala akong baluk magpabili ng bagong tsinelas kay Nanay.



Minsan nanaginip ako, isinama raw ako ni Nanay sa palengke. Dahil araw ng Linggo at maraming tao sa palengke ay nawaglit sa aking paningin si Nanay. Ako'y naligaw. Hindi ko alam ang sasakyan papauwi. Hinanap ko si Nanay ngunit hindi ko makita. Sinubukan kong magtanong ngunit walang pumapansin sa akin. Lahat ng tao sa palengke ay abala sa pagtawad, pagpisil ng isda, at paglapirot sa mga karne. Naglakad-lakad ako. Naghanap-hanap. Hanggang sa maramdaman kong unti-unti akong umaangat sa lupa. Naging kasing-taas ko ang mga bundok. At lahat daw ng mga tao sa palengke ay tumingala sa akin at namangha sa mahiwaga kong tsinelas. Ngunit bago ako makauwi ng bahay, ipinasyal muna ako ng upod kong tsinelas. Pinahawakan niya sa akin ang malambot na ulap, pinadausdos sa mga talon, lawa, tinangay patungo sa matatarik na bulkan at pinatulay sa mga baging sa kagubatan. Nalula pa nga ako 'nung biglang umalis sa aking mga paa ang upod kong tsinelas at bigla ring bumalik nang ako'y pabagsak na sa mga tila tsokolateng bundok. Para



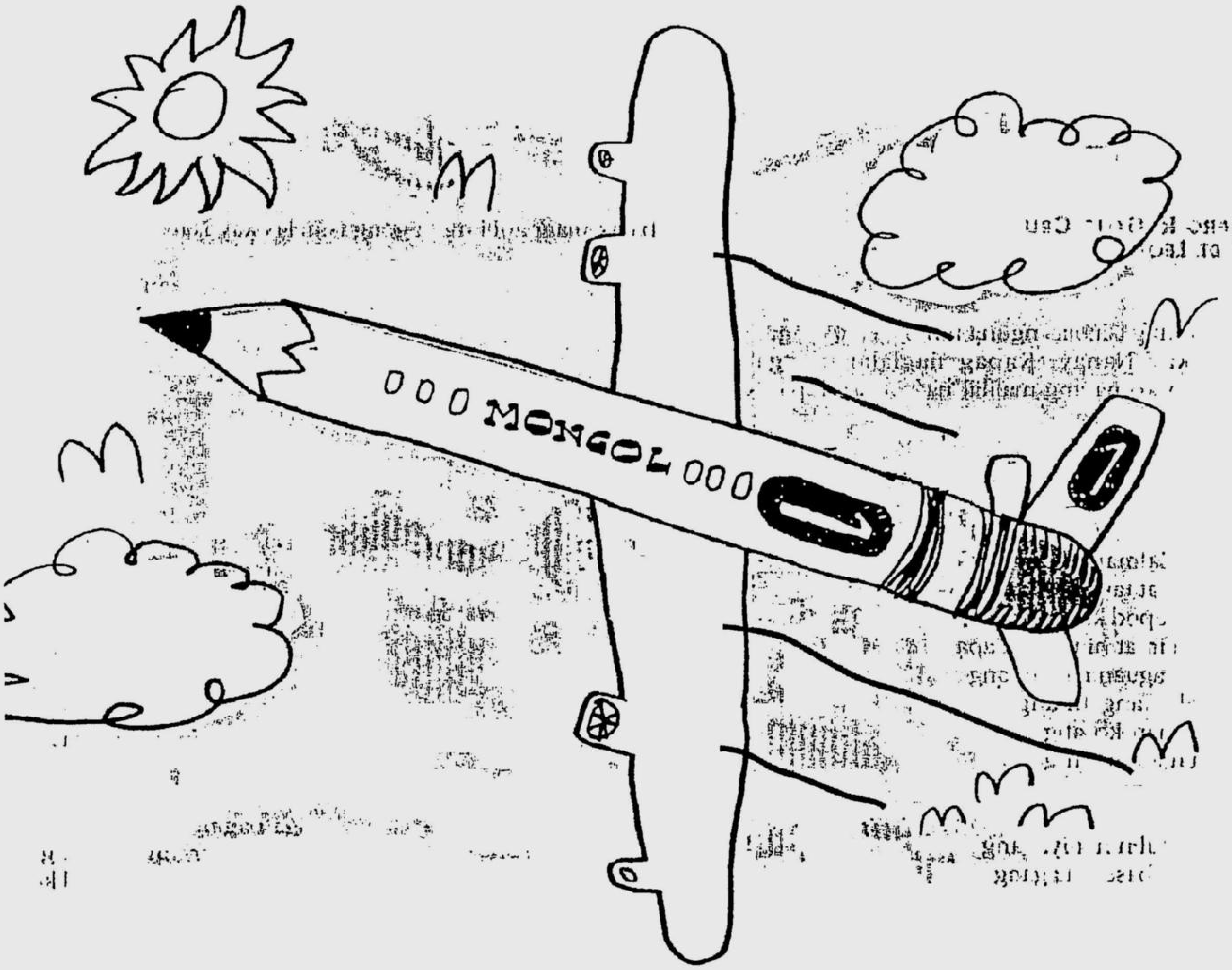
talagang totoo ang panaginip kong iyon. Mula noon lalong napamahal sa akin ang upod, ngunit masuwerte at mahiwaga, kong tsinelas.

Ngunit minsan habang ako'y hinahabol ni Abby ay biglang napago ang aking upod na tsinelas. Tuluyan nang napigtas at lalong lumaki ang bilog na butas sa may bandang sakong. Sinubukan kong isuot ngunit maya-maya ay bumigay na rin 'yung kapareha. Hanggang sa hindi na talaga puwedeng isuot.

Umuwi na ako sa bahay. Kailangan ko na talagang magpabili ng bagong tsinelas kay Nanay. At pagdating ko sa bahay, namangha ako sa aking nakita sa ibabaw ng estante; isang nakaplastik at bagung-bagong tsinelas. Bigla akong natuwa dahil kamukha siya ng luma kong tsinelas 'nung ito'y bago pa. Agad kong inalis sa plastik ang tsinelas, isinukat at inilakad. Pareho rin ang kanilang kulay. Kulay dilaw.

*Si **Genaro** ay kabilang sa isa sa mga cell group s ni Ricky Lee sa 11th Scriptwriting Workshop for Film and Television.*

*Si **Joanne** ay isang premyadong ilustrador. Siya ay miyembro ng Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan.*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SUMMER memories

by Abigail Lucero

ILLUSTRATION BY ROBERT MAGNUSON

Summertime has ended
Honestly, I feel sad and happy
I'm going to miss the times where
I would sleep and wake up late
The times when I would
just sit down
Take deep breaths,
feel the air and just be
Excited and relaxed
at the same time
When I would float lazily
in the ocean
While hearing the splish-splash
of waves
Moments when I would
just let the raindrops
Trickle down my face
and I would feel refreshed.

I could go on and tell you more
But it would just make me
miss such special times
What's important is that you never forget
The memories wonderfully
shared with others
Because that is after all,
the essence of summer.
Making memories that will last you a lifetime.

***Abigail**, 15, studies at Diliman Preparatory School.*
***Robert** is the creator of "Shirley's Pets."*

Mountain, Music, Magic!

(from page 1)

duet of trumpets made the audience chuckle while a lone clarinet player filled the theater with a low, rich sound.

There was a mountain bird that whistled a "Hoop! Hoop! Hoop!" and somehow it sounded like he was whistling along with the flutes. At one part of the program, a cloud was seen peeking behind the glass wall of the stage.

Maria Makiling must have been wondering what it was all about, but, moody as she was, if she really stayed to listen, we're pretty sure even she would have had a really good time.

SAY ENCORE! These musical kids are all smiles after their one-of-a-kind summer camp. ROGER CARPIO

"Music Will Change Your Life"

JI got to meet some of the performers after the show. Twelve-year-old Reynold Murillo, who came all the way from Camarines Sur, was this little guy with a soaring operatic voice.

"My mother loves to sing," he told us with a big cheery grin, "and I think I started singing when I was around 2 years old."

As Rey grew up, people began to notice something special about his voice. A music teacher suggested that he try classical singing.

"I used to love singing pop songs," says Rey, "then I learned that you have to learn techniques when you do classical singing."

"Anyone can sing pop songs," he continues, "but without those techniques, you can't just sing classical or you'll injure your throat."

Rey first learned about those techniques during this camp and he had so much fun that from now on, he says, "I'll only sing classical. It's what I really love."

The youngest violinist, 12-year-old Jonathan David Livioco of Bethany Baptist Academy in Makati, says he didn't enjoy learning about music, or the violin, as quickly. "It was like my mom forced me," he explains, "but later, the more I learned, the more I liked music. . .and I really loved playing the violin!"

"It's sound is so different...*nakakaiyak*," says Jon. Studying music, he adds, has helped him a lot in his studies. "Especially in math," he points out, "because music is basically counting (the beats)."

"Put your heart into studying music," Jon tells other kids, "because it will help you all throughout your life."

According to 13-year-old pianist, Joanna de Joya, music makes life extraordinary. "It's something rare. . . (with music) you have something special in your life that you can always turn to no matter what happens to you."

Joanna, who studies at Assumption College in Antipolo, says her mom first taught her how to play the piano at the age of 6. "*Pero* baby pa lang daw po ako, *gumagapang na raw po ako sa* piano!" she says, laughing. When she performs, Joanna throws her whole self into her piano playing and people watching her tend to think she's in a trance. "It's like I'm not myself," Joanna admits, "I feel out of this world. . .but happy."

Joanna says playing the piano takes her to a world far away from this one, without imperfections. "It's a wonderful feeling," she says, smiling.

A Trip to Kalinga

(from page 7)

took another four hours. But I still enjoyed myself because the view was a feast for my beauty-loving eyes—the snaking rocky road, the acacia tree-filled ravines, the roadside waterfalls, the fog, the majestic mountains, the never-ending Chico River. Even Xiowy enjoyed herself. After four hours in the jeep, at around 6:30 p.m., we finally arrived in Balenciagao.

My Mama's friend, *Tito* Arnel, was going to take us that day to the shaman who lived in a barrio called Bulen, another two- to three-hour trek from Tito Arnel's house in Balenciagao. But since it was already dark when we got to Balenciagao, we decided to sleep the night off and wake up very early the next morning. The following day, after a light breakfast, we hiked with *Tito* Arnel and his wife Tita Mariko to Barrio Bulen where the shaman lived. That was the real adventure. We hiked through narrow trails up the mountain. And it was so fun. It was so real, too. You know, mud, rocks, and all that jazz. We all had our equal share of slips on the really difficult trails. The hike was three-hour long with many rest stops along the way. At last, we arrived at Bulen. It turned out that there was going to be a wedding that day. My Mama had to talk with the shaman whose name was *Nanang* Ginablay, before the wedding began. They talked about healing practices, medicinal plants, the Kalinga belief system, and plans for future meetings.

Since they could not finish their conversation before the wedding, they had to continue after the reception. The wedding was also fun. The whole village. and even the surrounding ones, had been invited. After the ceremonies, there was dancing, singing, and beating of gongs. Very noisy and energetic. There was also food for everyone—carabao meat stew, pork dishes, macaroni salad, sticky rice wrapped in banana leaves, crackers, juice, and a mystery soup that I could not identify. We stayed for quite a while until it was time to go. We hiked back using a different, though longer, trail because it had been raining the whole day and the shorter trail was not anymore safe. Our shoes and clothes wet from the rain, with our backpacks strapped to our backs, we tried to walk fast. But darkness caught up with us. We even left our flashlight at *Tito* Arnel's house thinking that it would not take us so long to get back. Fortunately, a Kalinga man headed the opposite direction was kind enough to lend us his flashlight. And so we walked for another four hours, wading on puddles, telling stories of spirits that lived on trees we passed by, stopping once to talk to passengers of a jeep that got stranded because of a landslide. Finally, we arrived at *Tito* Arnel's house. We immediately changed to dry clothes and wrapped ourselves with warm blankets. And since we had been starving the whole time we were on the road, we opened our cans of tuna, and pork and beans, and ate until we couldn't eat another morsel. We slept soundly and woke up the next morning in time for *Tito* Arnel to drive us back to Tabuk. In Tabuk, we had lunch of *bulalo* and *pinapaitan* and then took a jeep to the Tuguegarao Victory bus terminal. We were still kind of early so we passed by Jollibee, which was just a few paces away. We needed something to munch on during the next 13-hour bus ride. We were so happy to be going home already. I enjoyed every part of our trip. I learned many things too, like:

1. Don't say that something is boring just because that's what it sounds like;
2. Complaining takes the fun away from an adventure;
3. Everybody is civilized in their own way.

Next time my Mama has a research trip, I'm definitely going. Would you like to come along with us?

***Tao** studies at the Philippine High School for the Arts.*

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Jasmine-of-all-trades

After writing several short books, 70 songs, painting and doing craft stuff with her friends, 13-year-old Jasmin is out to learn more

BY MARGAUX ORTIZ

"IT WAS a time of mad kings, noble knights, witches, dragons and dark. . .six friends—a.k.a. the Daughters of Aphrodite—embark on their greatest adventure to stop an evil goddess from dominating the world."

Does that sound like something you read from the fantasy/adventure section of the local bookstore? Loosely based on Greek mythology, this particular version may not be on the shelves yet, but it's young author feels it's her most ambitious novel to date.

"It's a combination of comedy, suspense and adventure with a touch of love, of course," Jasmine Cruz says of "Daughters of Aphrodite."

"I am particularly excited about the magic powers the six friends will use to fight Medusa (the evil goddess) but I'm still deciding on the kind of powers," Jasmine says.

Prolific writer

Jasmine, a freshman at Miriam College in Quezon City, has been writing stories and poems since "I-don't-remember-when."

She loves writing so much that she does it everywhere: in her room, in school, in the car, even in the bathroom!

"It (writing) comes naturally to me," Jasmine says. "Ideas would come and hit me from nowhere and I have to write them down or else I would forget them. *Sayang naman.*"

Jasmine has already started writing 10 books and hopes to get one published someday: "The Wrong Side of the Book" and "Flower Street Mountain" are some of her titles.

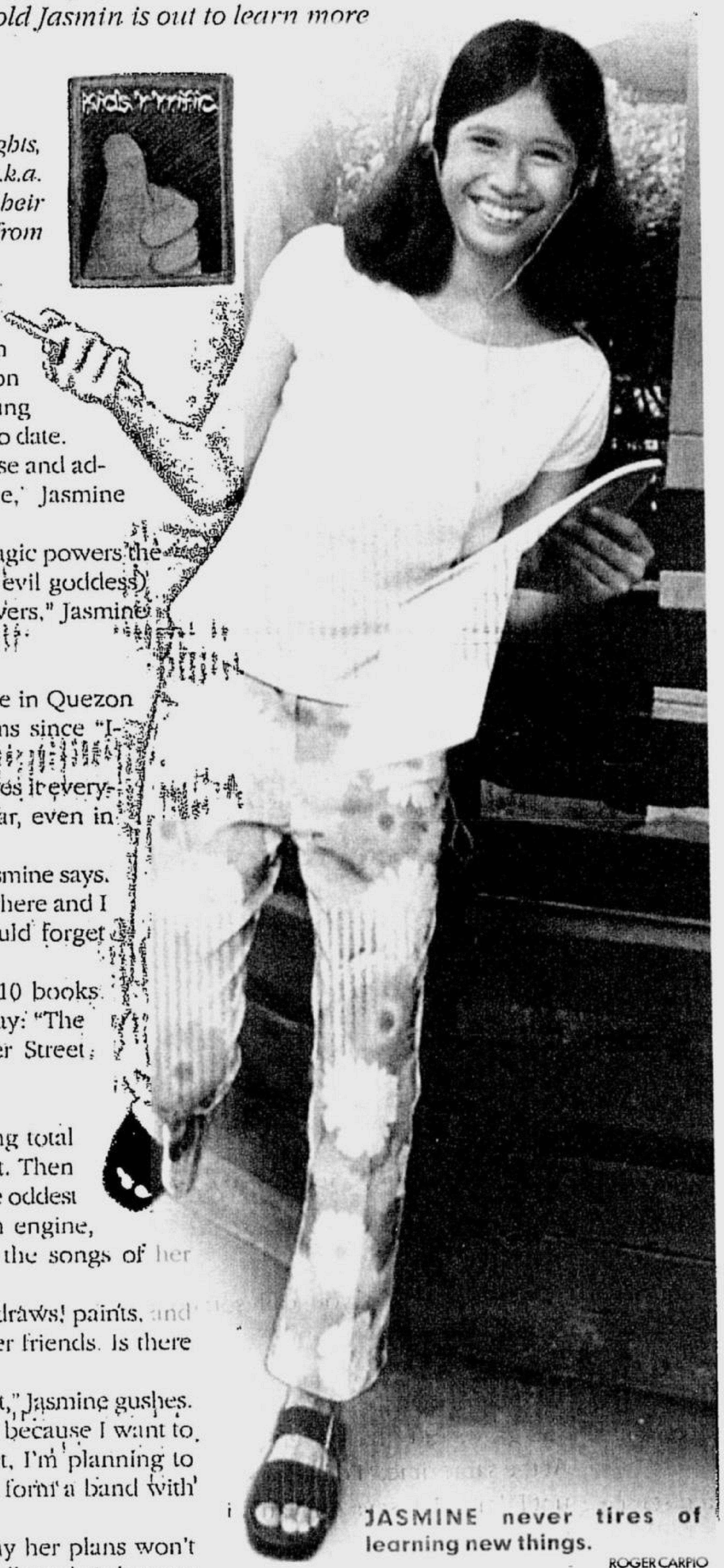
A musical girl

Jasmine has composed a breathtaking total of 70 songs! She thinks of the lyrics first. Then she combines it with tunes inspired by the oddest of thing: a honking car, the whir of an engine, etc. Sometimes she mixes tunes from the songs of her favorite pop artists.

And hold your breath, Jasmine also draws, paints, and makes trinkets and clay pottery with her friends. Is there *anything* this girl cannot do?

"I'd love to learn how to dance and act," Jasmine gushes. "I would also like to sing professionally because I want to interpret the songs I composed. In fact, I'm planning to master a musical instrument so I could form a band with my friends."

Jasmine believes that there is no way her plans won't push through. "I think I can make this all work," she says with a confident smile.



JASMINE never tires of learning new things.

ROGER CARPIO

R☺RRIFIC

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!

Kids'r'rrific
nomination form

I nominate: ____________________

Age: ________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

____
____
____
____
____
____
____
____

She/he lives at
____
____
____

and studies at
____

Her/his contact number is:
____

Sender's Name:
____

Sender's Age & School:
______, ____________________

Sender's Address:
____
____

Sender's Contact No.
____

A.K.A. 'Tri-Geek'

Ani de Leon, 26, pedals, swims and runs to be happy

ANI shows off the tools of her trade.

JOHNNY VILLENA

ANI Karina Sarabia de Leon is a grand daughter of National Artist for Music Felipe de Leon. When she was much, much younger, her family encouraged her to learn how to play the piano. Ani thought the piano was fun but she preferred drawing.

She doodled on all her notebooks and made funny sketches of some of her teachers. She did really well in art class and learned how to paint. Later in college, she took up interior design and now designs the insides of other people's houses for a living. She also runs an art gallery with her sister and some friends. But Ani is not just into visual arts. She also loves sports.

"The first sport I really got into was gymnastics," says Ani, "then I got into the school swimming team." Ani became the bemedalled team captain of both her high school and college swimming teams in the University of the Philippines. Her teammates then encouraged her to try the triathlon, or a race that combines swimming, biking and running.

"I didn't even know you had to train for such a thing," Ani muses, "I mean, I already knew how to swim, I could ride a bike and everyone can run, right?"

"Boy, was I wrong!" she adds, laughing. Her laugh is hearty, unique and contagious.

Ani had to learn to ride on a bike that was more slender than regular bikes.

"You have to be more balanced, a little mistake and you'll fall off," she explains.

Then she had to learn how to swim a distance of 1.5 kilometers in the ocean, followed by a 40-kilometer bike ride and a 10-kilometer run.

Ani loved her first triathlon and now she's in the training pool of the National Triathlon Team.

(Query: what do you call someone who loves triathlon? Really, really loves triathlon? "A tri-geek!" replies Ani. A proud "tri-geek" indeed.)

She'll always be an artist, says Ani, even when she grows old "that never goes away *naman eh.*" At the same time, "I'd like to still be active in sports until I'm 70!" says Ani, laughing her hearty- contagious laugh again.

"I don't care, it doesn't have to be competitive," she adds, "It's just something I really enjoy."

Christine C. Rivero

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL

**is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.**

I nominate ________________.
He/She is ____ years old and is
my ______________________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)______________________;
2)______________________;
3)______________________;
4)______________________;
and
5)______________________.

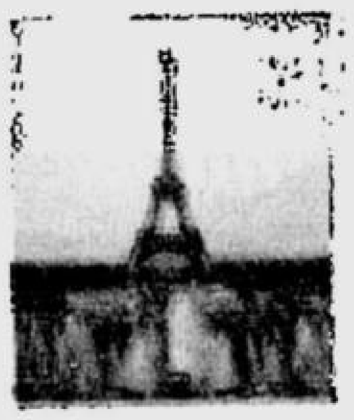
My nominee lives at__________
______________________.
Give him/her a call at__________
______________ or send him/
her an e-mail
at______________.
By the way, I'm______________
______________________.
I'm ______ years old.
My address is
______________________.
You may call me at
______________________.

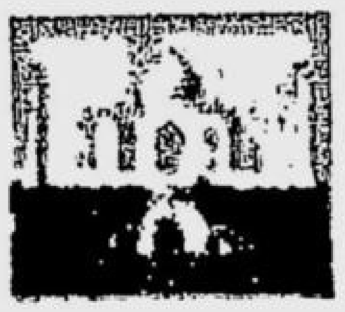
¿ThinkathoN?

By Bong Barrameda

Where Are You?

Before summer finally bids farewell, let's take a virtual tour around the world. But here's the catch to earn your return ticket : if you found yourself in front of these famous sights, would you know the particular countries you are in?

1.


2.


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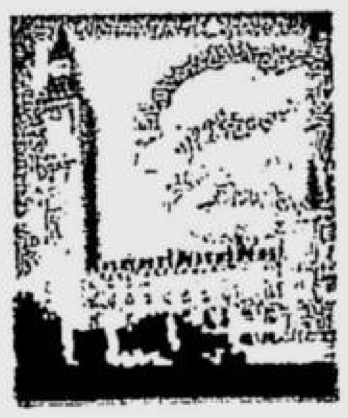

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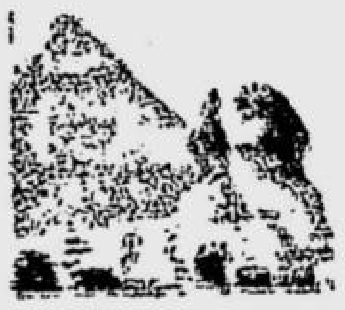

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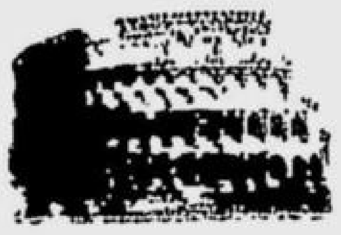

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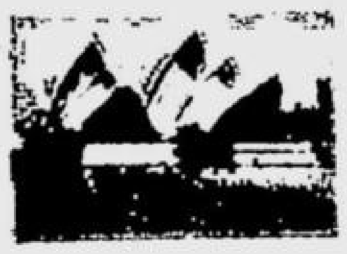

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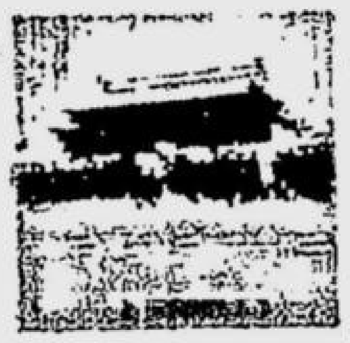

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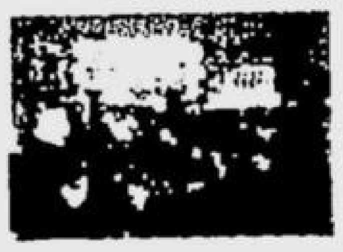

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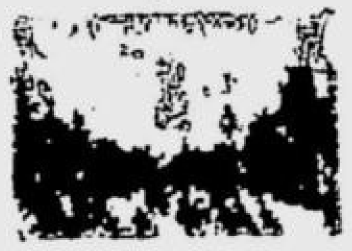

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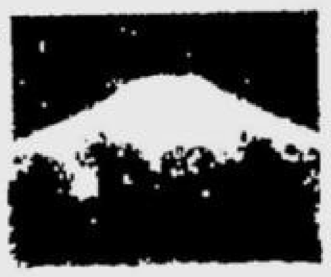

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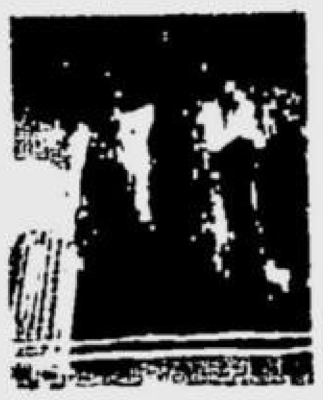

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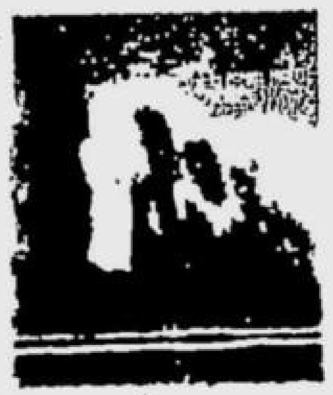


Answers:

1. **France** (Eiffel Tower in Paris)
2. **India** (Taj Mahal in Agra)
3. **England** (Big Ben in London)
4. **Egypt** (Great Sphinx and Great Pyramid in Giza)
5. **Italy** (Colosseum in Rome)
6. **Australia** (Sydney Opera House)
7. **China** (Tiananmen Square in Beijing)
8. **Greece** (Acropolis/Parthenon in Athens)
9. **United States** (Disney World in Orlando, Florida)
10. **Japan** (Mount Fuji)
11. **Malaysia** (Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur)
12. **Chile** (Easter Island)

Ratings:

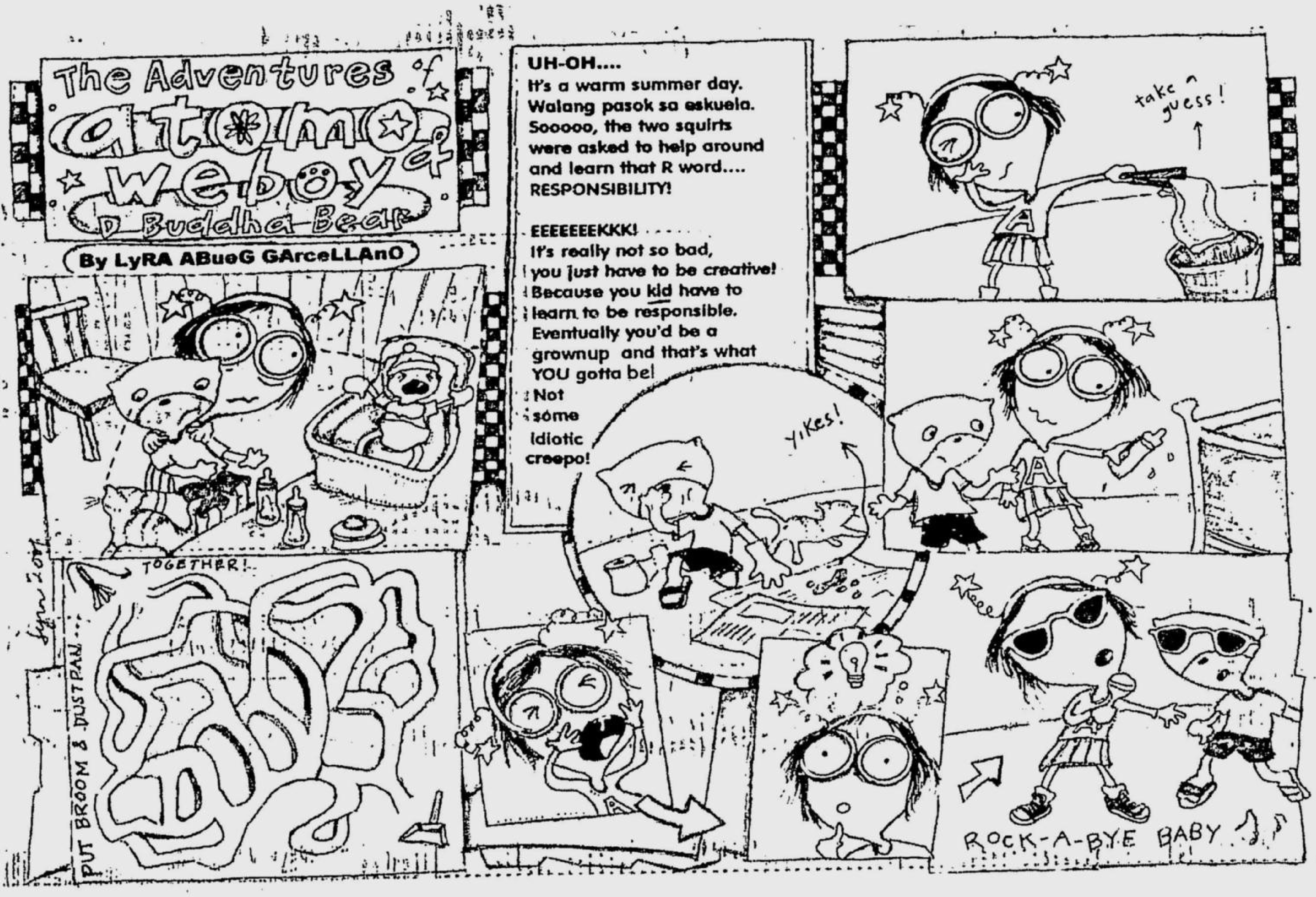
superbrain!
11 - 12

excellent!
9 - 10

good!
6 - 7

The Adventures of atomo & weboy & D Buddha Bear

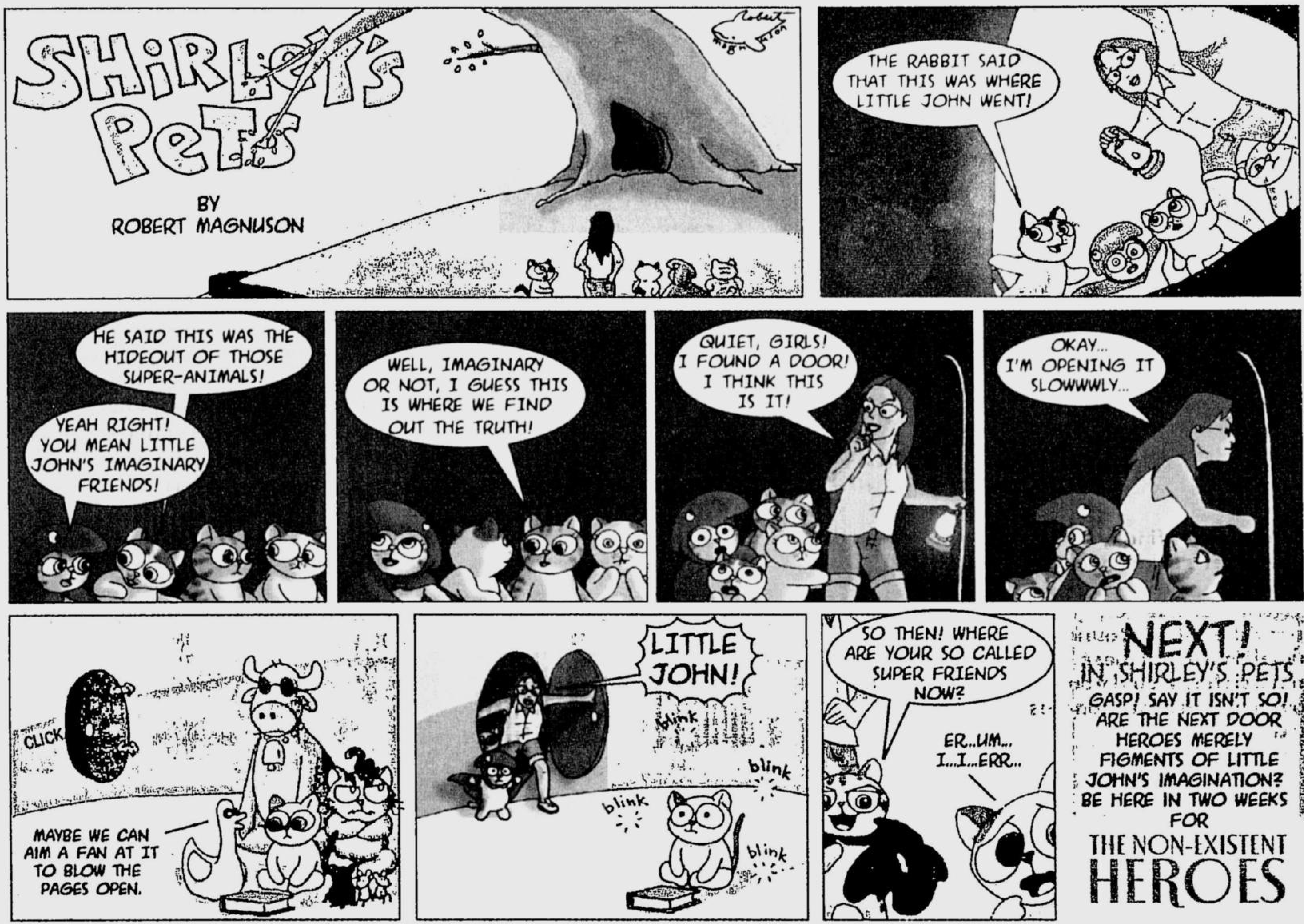
By LyRA ABueG GArceLLAnO



UH-OH....
It's a warm summer day. Walang pasok sa eskuela. Sooooo, the two squirts were asked to help around and learn that R word.... RESPONSIBILITY!

EEEEEEEKKK! ......
It's really not so bad, you just have to be creative! Because you kid have to learn to be responsible. Eventually you'd be a grownup and that's what YOU gotta be! Not some idiotic creepo!

take a guess!
Yikes!
TOGETHER!
PUT BROOM & DUSTPAN
ROCK-A-BYE BABY


SHIRLEY'S PETS
BY
ROBERT MAGNUSON
THE RABBIT SAID THAT THIS WAS WHERE LITTLE JOHN WENT!
HE SAID THIS WAS THE HIDEOUT OF THOSE SUPER-ANIMALS!
YEAH RIGHT! YOU MEAN LITTLE JOHN'S IMAGINARY FRIENDS!
WELL, IMAGINARY OR NOT, I GUESS THIS IS WHERE WE FIND OUT THE TRUTH!
QUIET, GIRLS! I FOUND A DOOR! I THINK THIS IS IT!
OKAY... I'M OPENING IT SLOWWWLY...
CLICK
MAYBE WE CAN AIM A FAN AT IT TO BLOW THE PAGES OPEN.
LITTLE JOHN!
blink
blink
blink
blink
SO THEN! WHERE ARE YOUR SO CALLED SUPER FRIENDS NOW?
ER...UM... I...I...ERR...
NEXT!
IN SHIRLEY'S PETS
GASP! SAY IT ISN'T SO! ARE THE NEXT DOOR HEROES MERELY FIGMENTS OF LITTLE JOHN'S IMAGINATION? BE HERE IN TWO WEEKS FOR
THE NON-EXISTENT HEROES

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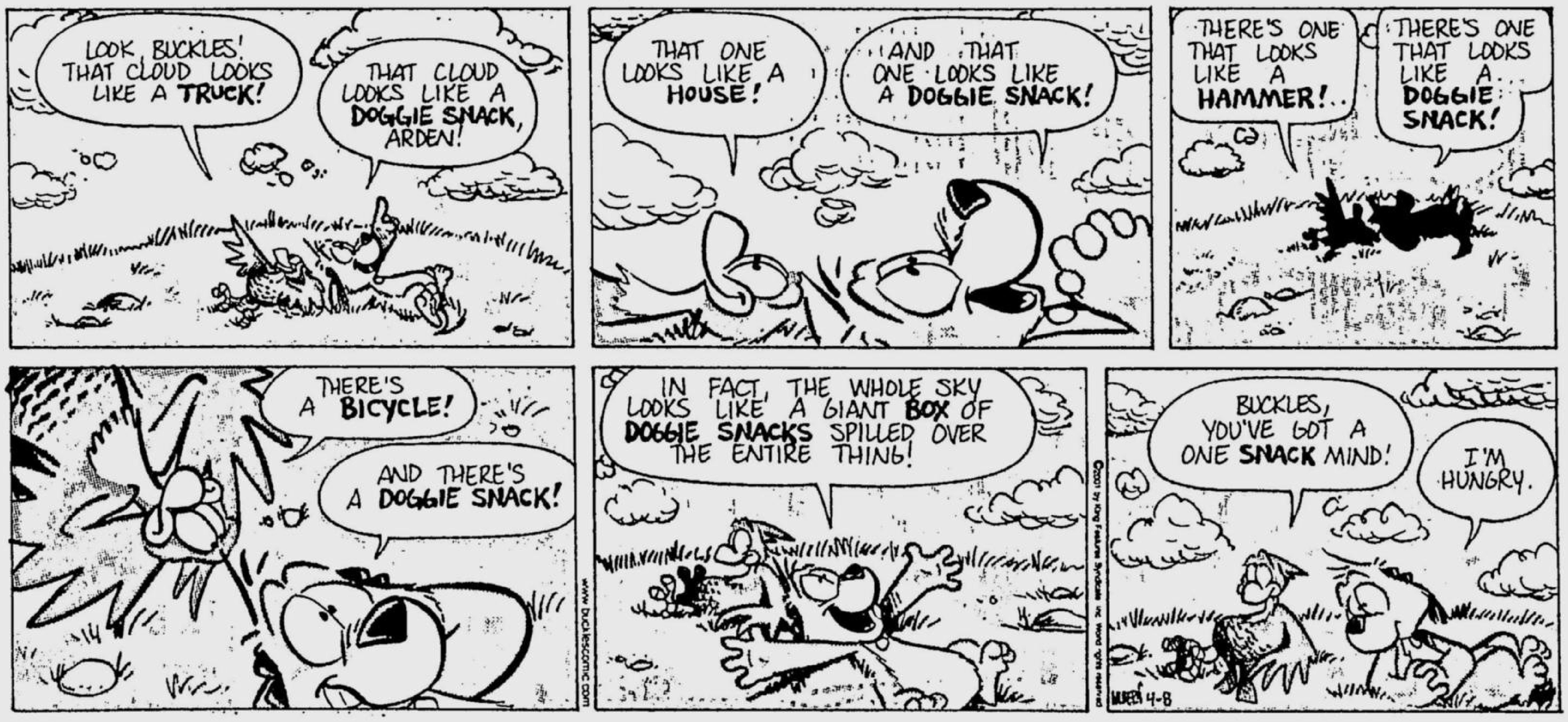
Visit Shirley and her pets at www.shirleyspets.cheesedip.com.

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


LOOK, BUCKLES! THAT CLOUD LOOKS LIKE A TRUCK!
THAT CLOUD LOOKS LIKE A DOGGIE SNACK, ARDEN!
THAT ONE LOOKS LIKE A HOUSE!
AND THAT ONE LOOKS LIKE A DOGGIE SNACK!
THERE'S ONE THAT LOOKS LIKE A HAMMER!
THERE'S ONE THAT LOOKS LIKE A DOGGIE SNACK!
THERE'S A BICYCLE!
AND THERE'S A DOGGIE SNACK!
www.bucklescomic.com
IN FACT, THE WHOLE SKY LOOKS LIKE A GIANT BOX OF DOGGIE SNACKS SPILLED OVER THE ENTIRE THING!
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BUCKLES, YOU'VE GOT A ONE SNACK MIND!
I'M HUNGRY.
4-8

LI'L HANDS CLUB

8th FUNDAY CELEBRATION!

JUNE 2, 2001

at

NAYONG PILIPINO

Free Arts and Crafts WORKSHOP

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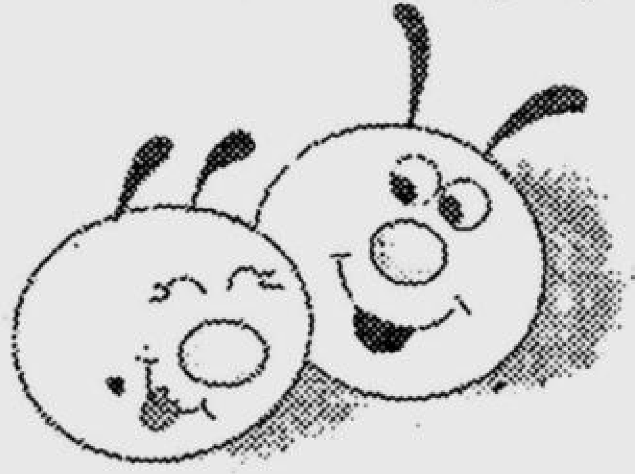
Category 1: AGE 3-6
Storytelling Workshop
By Phoenix Educational Systems

Category 2: AGE 7-9
Bamboo Art Collage
By Precy G. Brady
Kiddie Art Workshop



Category 3: AGE 10-12
Glass Painting
By Rose Arbour Craft Shop

Category 4: AGE 13 and UP
Macrame Art
By Art Gallery House, Nayong Pilipino

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1. Present your Li'l Hands Club I.D.
2. Only the first 30 on-site registrants will be allowed to join per category.

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